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SEPTEMBER 1989
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The illustrated fantasy magazine

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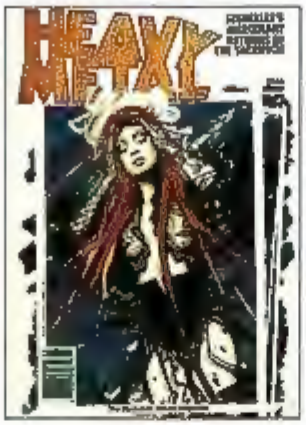

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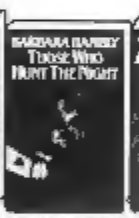

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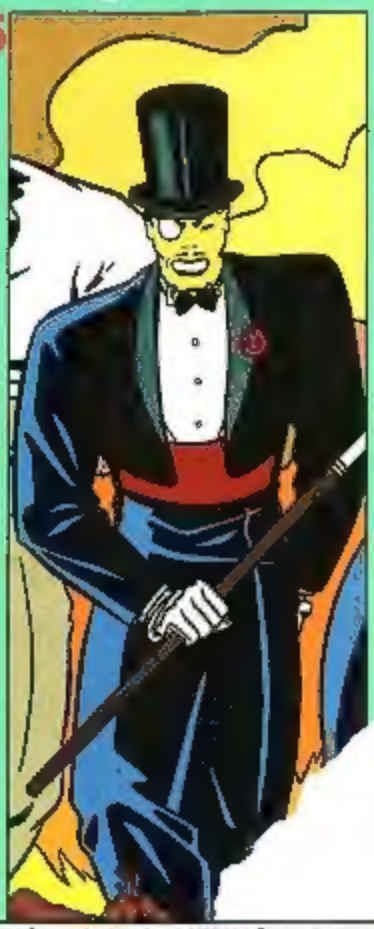

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EDITORIAL

Our first "Off the Top of Your Head List of 1989"—citing **HM** artists' fave sf and fantasy films—was such a big hit, we solicited from those artists, and then some, their favorite sf and/or fantasy books. The following is the result. Unfortunately, we were unable to reach many people we would have liked to. Maybe next year, guys!!

Charles Burns ("El Borbah"): *Freaks Amore*, by Tom DeHaven

Richard Corben ("Den"): *Stranger in a Strange Land*, by Robert Heinlein

John Findley ("Tex Arcana"): *Music of the Spheres*, by Guy Murchie

James Fletcher (*The Venus Interface*): *The Narnia Chronicles*, by C. S. Lewis

Lou Stathis (*The Venus Interface*): *Time Out of Joint*, by Philip K. Dick

Drew Friedman ("Forgotten Films"): Ed McMahon: *The Art of Public Speaking*

Rick Geary (*The Venus Interface*): *The Time Machine*, by H.G. Wells

Randy Jones ("Skydancer"): *Dune*, by Frank Herbert

Michael Cherkas (*The Silent Invasion*): *Time Out of Joint*, by Philip K. Dick

Mike Kaluta ("Starstruck"): *Metropolis*, by Thea Vonharbou

Elaine Lee ("Starstruck"): *Stars My Destination*, by Alfred Bester

Paul Kirchner ("The Bus"): *No Blade of Grass*, by John Christopher

Adam Kubert (*HM* letterer and artist): *Pet Sematary*, by Stephen King

Rowena (*HM* cover artist): *Tarzan of the Apes*, by Edgar Rice Burroughs

Jean Giraud (Moebius): "anything by Jack Vance"

Olivia (*HM* cover artist): *Dark Knight*, by Frank Miller

Kenneth Smith (*The Venus Interface*): *Invisible Cities*, by Italo Calvino

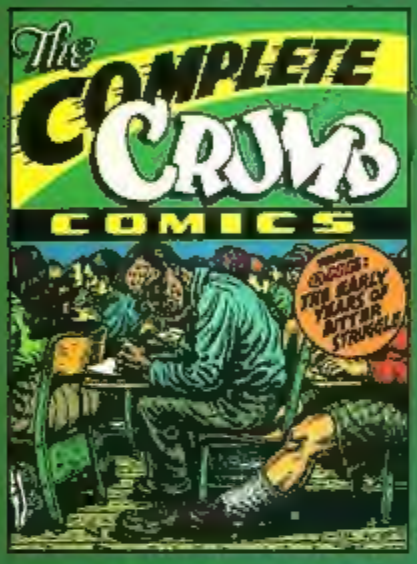
Michael Uman (*The Venus Interface*): *Neuromancer*, by William Gibson

Julie Simmons-Lynch
Cat's Cradle, by Kurt Vonnegut, Jr.

THE UNSEEN CRUMB

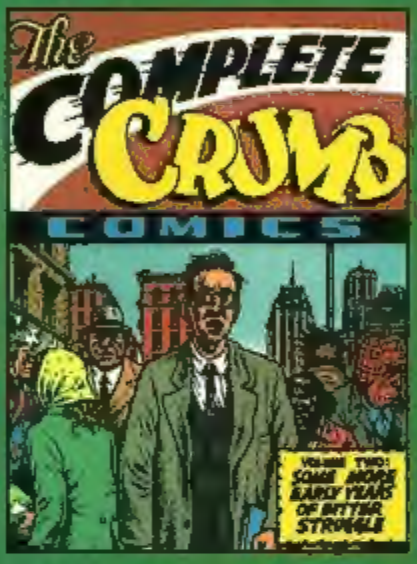
"...An idealistic artist whose instincts led him to admire Walt Kelly as much as Caravaggio [becomes] a prematurely cynical—and, not coincidentally, definitive—commentator on '60s counterculture, '70s self-absorption, and '80s aimlessness...For the roots of that radicalism, THE COMPLETE CRUMB COMICS is an indispensable and beautifully executed effort."
—Ken Tucker, L.A. Weekly

"No one's library can be without it."
—Alan Moore



VOLUME ONE

A unique chance to see the development of one of the greatest cartoonists of all time, with 127 pages of art from Crumb's earliest surviving sketchbooks, including 90 pages never before reprinted. The origins of Fritz the Cat, a brand new cover by Crumb, and a fascinating in-depth introduction by Marty Pahls.



VOLUME TWO

A never before seen, 40-page Fritz the Cat story, the most complete collection of his "Roberta Smith, Office Girl" strips ever, a 16-page color section, and the long out-of-print *R. Crumb's Comics and Stories* (the notorious Fritz incest story). Plus another new cover and biographical introduction.

VOLUME THREE

The Complete Crumb gets serious, with the Fritz stories that made Crumb famous, ultra-rare advertising art from Topps, over 30 greeting cards from American Greetings, never before reprinted articles from *Help!* and *Yell*, a 16-page color section, and four pages of an unfinished Fritz the Cat strip never before published anywhere!

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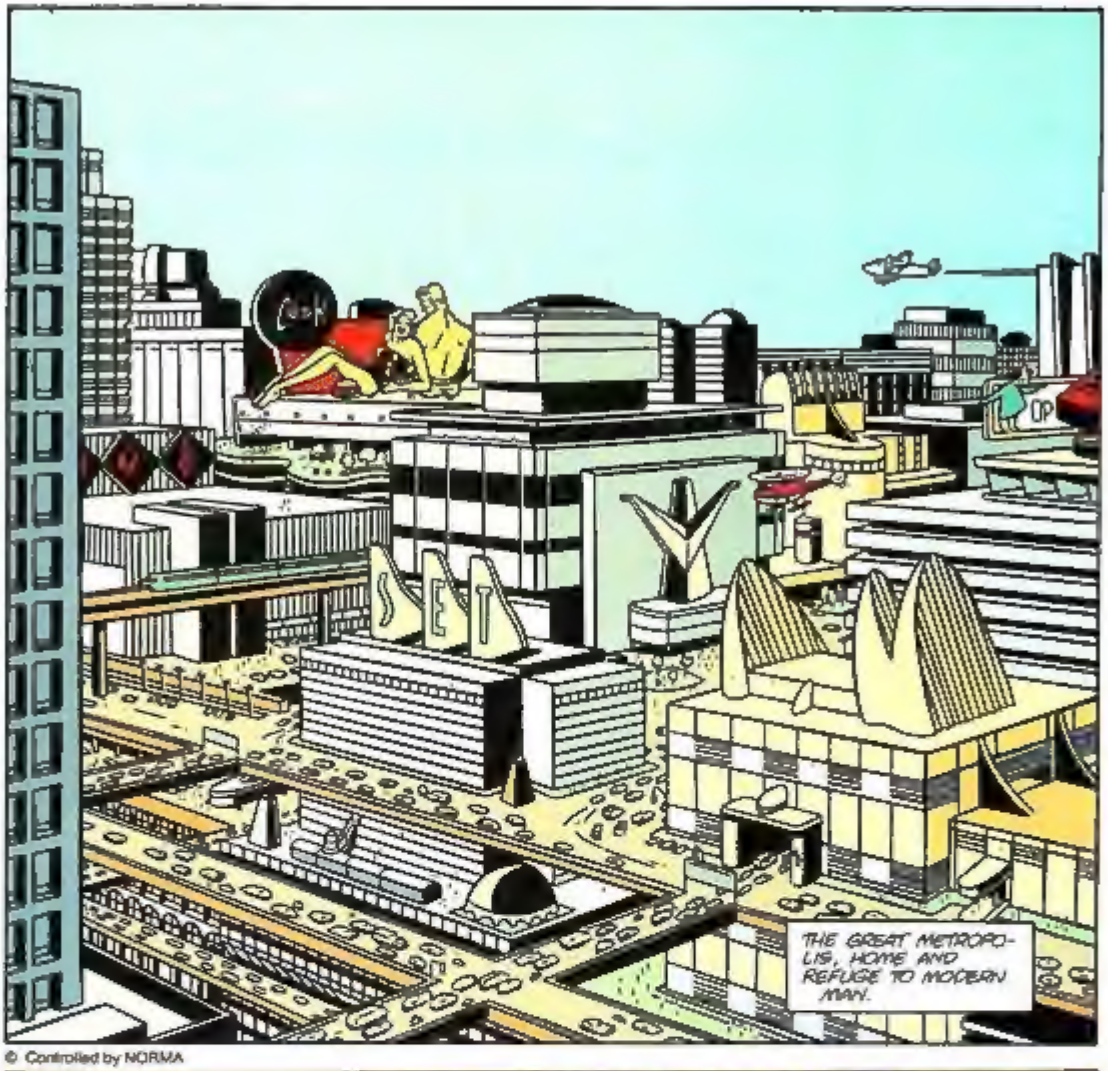
Opium



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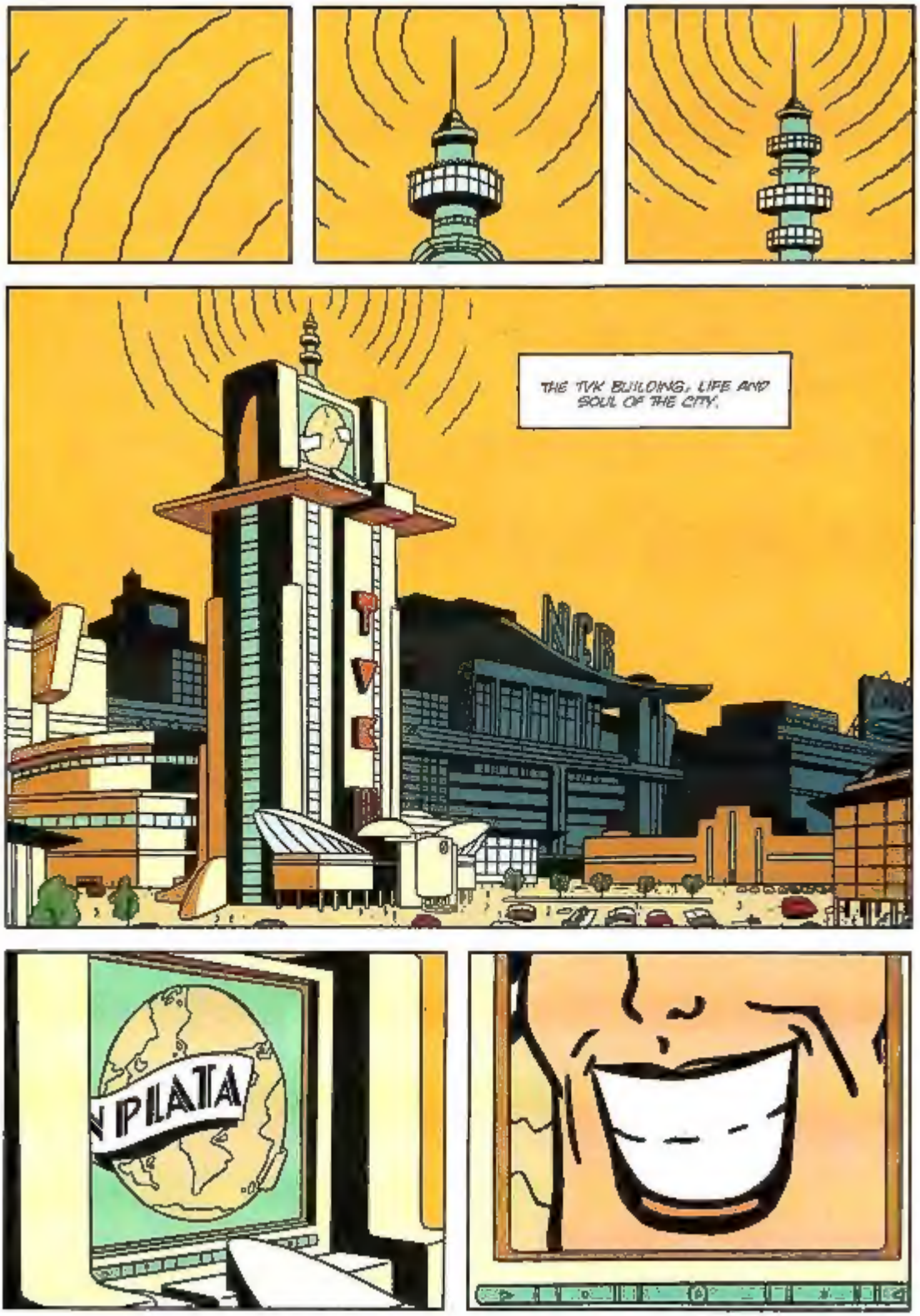
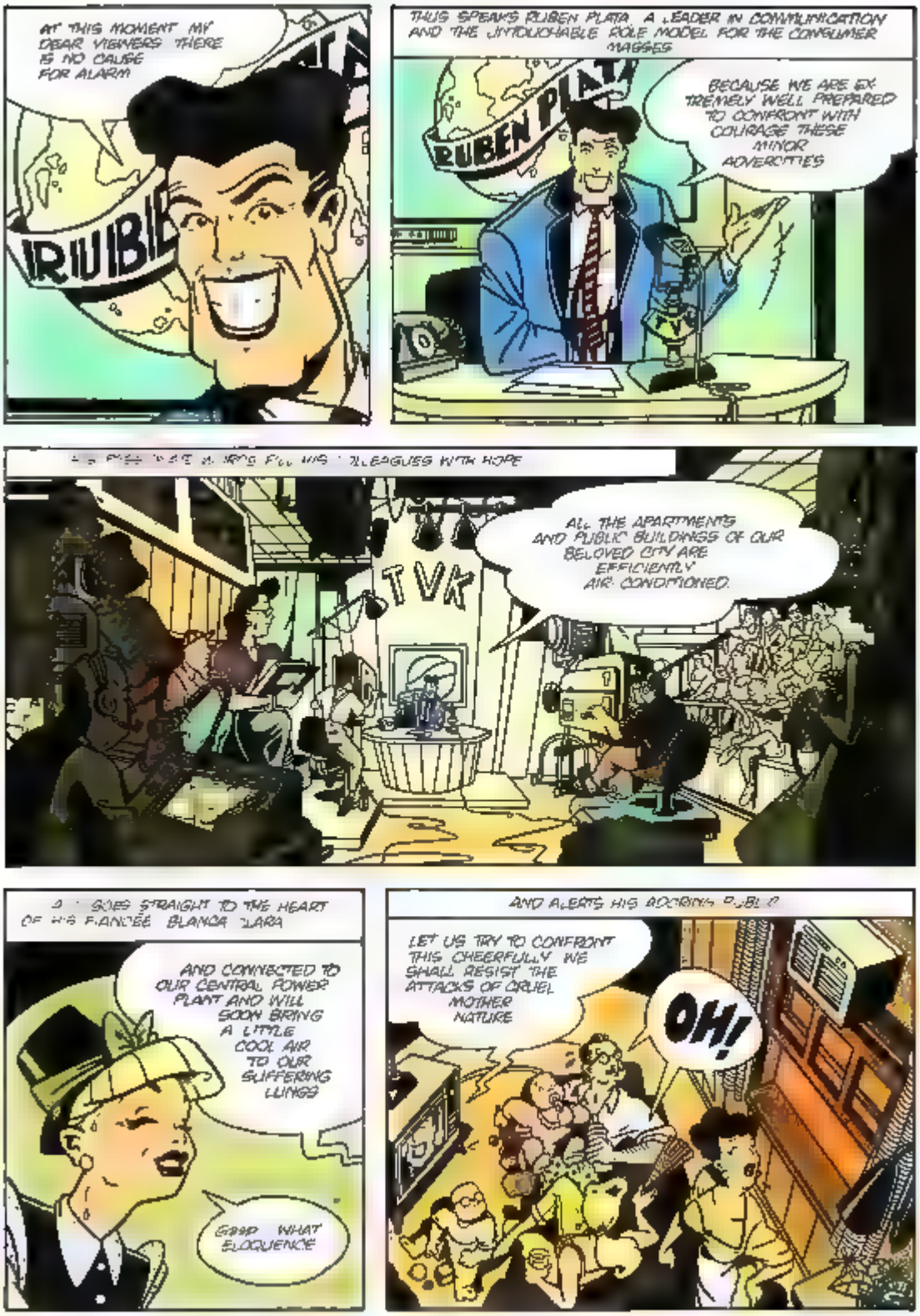
IN IT, LIFE IS GENERALLY ORDERLY, AGREEABLE AND PEACEFUL..... OR WOULD BE IF IT WEREN'T FOR THE TERRIBLE HEAT WAVE.
STORY BY DANIEL TORRES. SCENARIO BY PEREZ NAVARRO. DRAWINGS BY

NO FORM OF LIFE IS POSSIBLE IN SUCH A CLIMATE.
AIR LINES
YOUR... gulp... YOUR ICE CREAM, SIR.
!?
ZZZ
BUT AS GRAVE AS THE SITUATION APPEARS, IT WILL SOON BECOME INSIGNIFICANT, BECAUSE IT IS ONLY THE PROLOGUE TO...
INFIERNO!

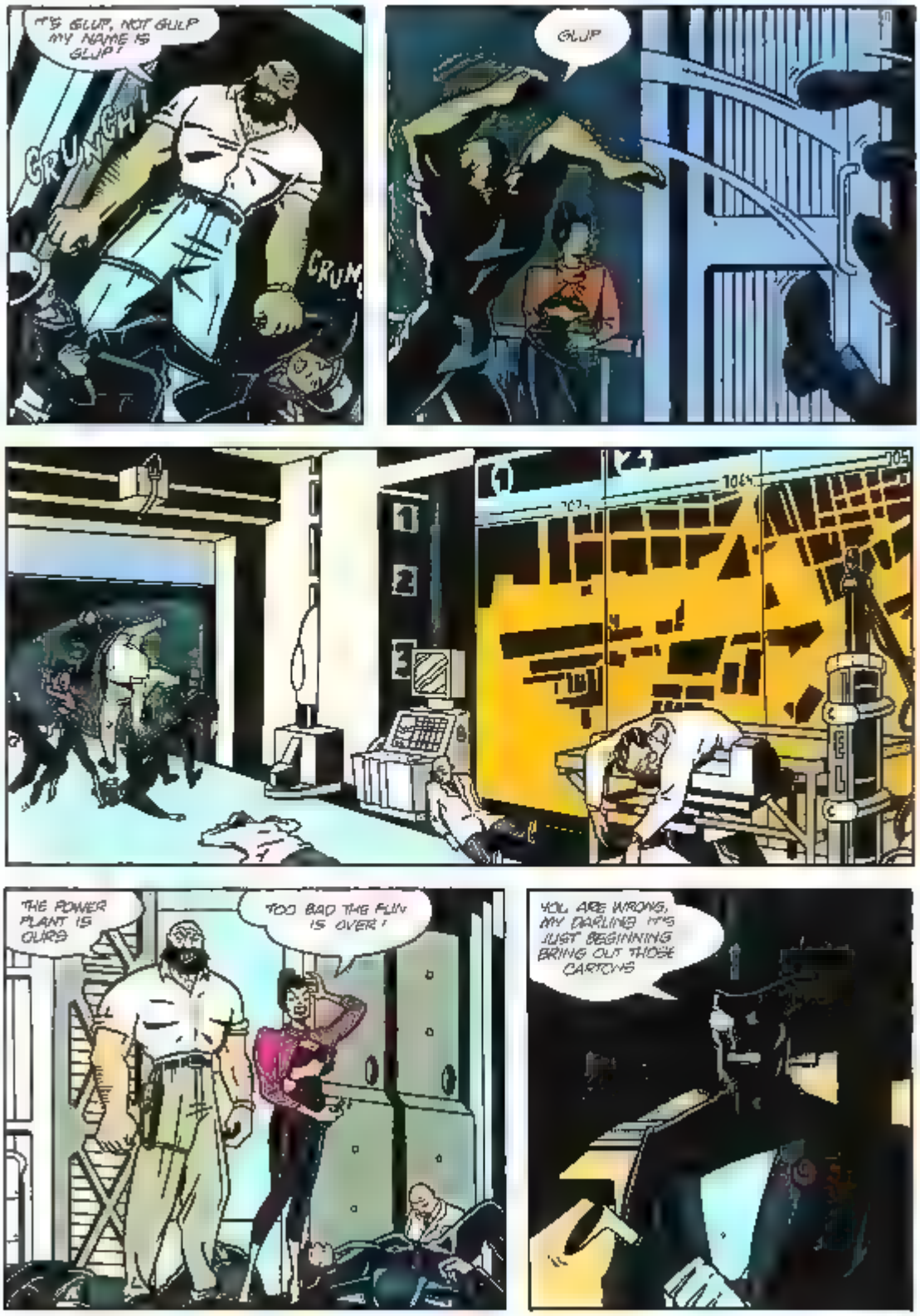

THE TVK BUILDING, LIFE AND SOUL OF THE CITY.
TVKE
PLATA

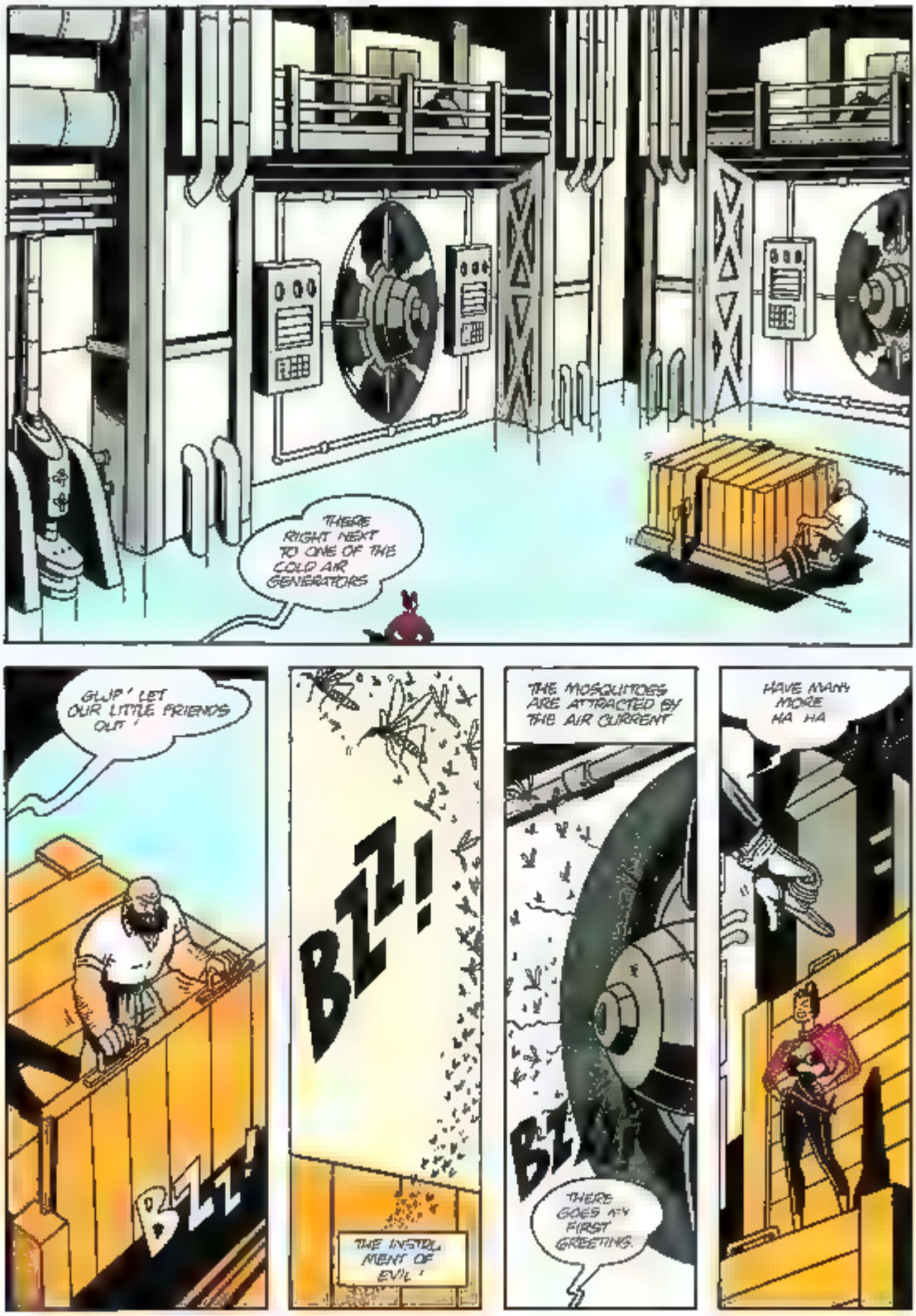

AT THIS MOMENT MY DEAR VIEWERS THERE IS NO CAUSE FOR ALARM
RUBEN
THUS SPEAKS RUBEN PLATA A LEADER IN COMMUNICATION AND THE UNTOUCHABLE POLE MODEL FOR THE CONSUMER MASSES
RUBEN PLATA
BECAUSE WE ARE EXTREMELY WELL PREPARED TO CONFRONT WITH COURAGE THESE MINOR ADVERSITIES
TVK
ALL THE APARTMENTS AND PUBLIC BUILDINGS OF OUR BELOVED CITY ARE EFFICIENTLY AIR CONDITIONED.
AND CONNECTED TO OUR CENTRAL POWER PLANT AND WILL SOON BRING A LITTLE COOL AIR TO OUR SUFFERING LUNGS
GOSH WHAT ELOQUENCE
LET US TRY TO CONFRONT THIS CHEERFULLY WE SHALL RESIST THE ATTACKS OF CRUEL MOTHER NATURE
OH!

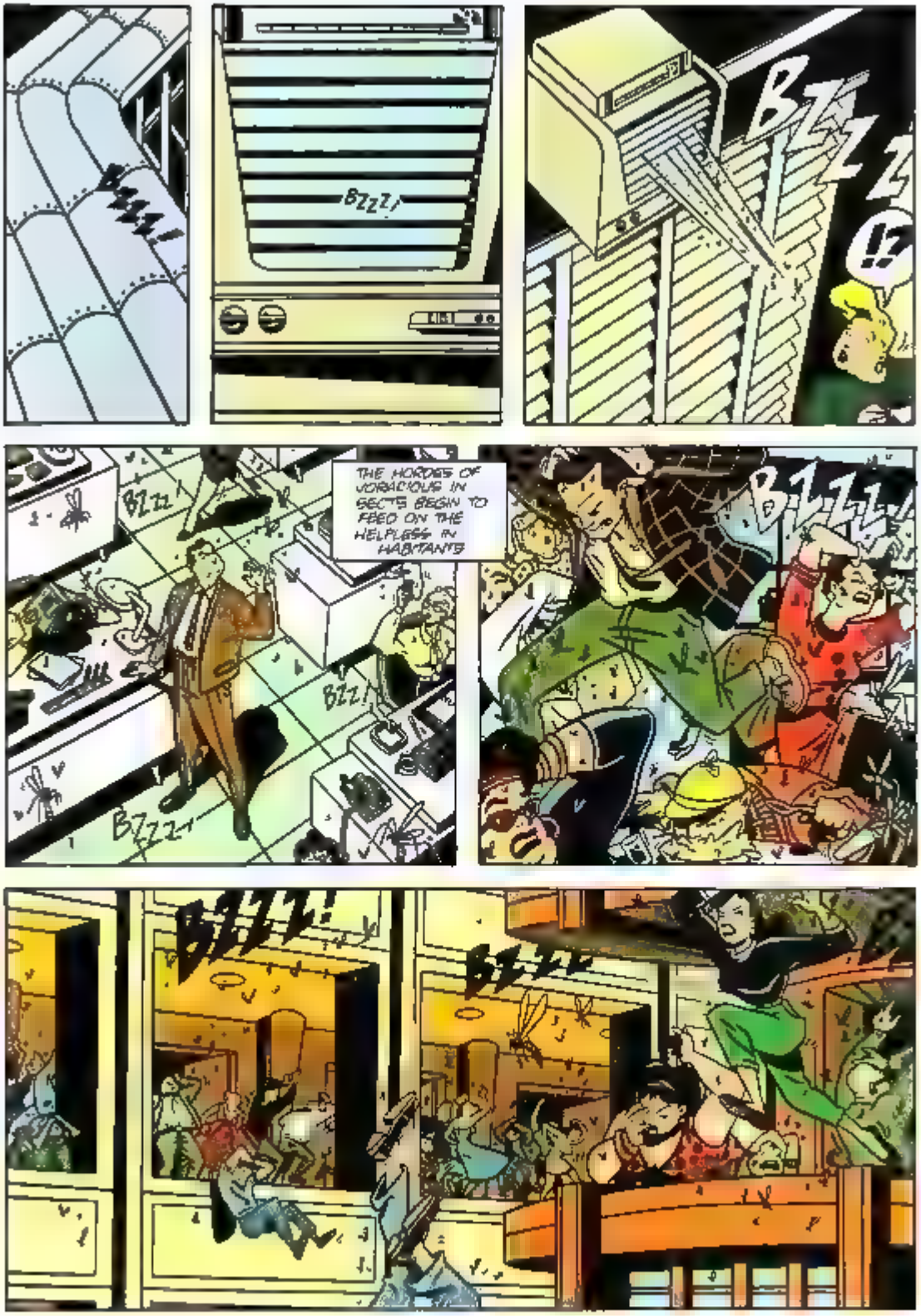
THE CITY RESUMES ITS USUAL RHYTHM
I'VE CHANGED MY MIND BRING ME A HOT SOUP
HA HA HA !
AND ALL OF THIS THANKS TO THE CITY'S KNIGHT IN SHINING ARMOR RUBEN PLATA
TRUST ME !
TRUST HER

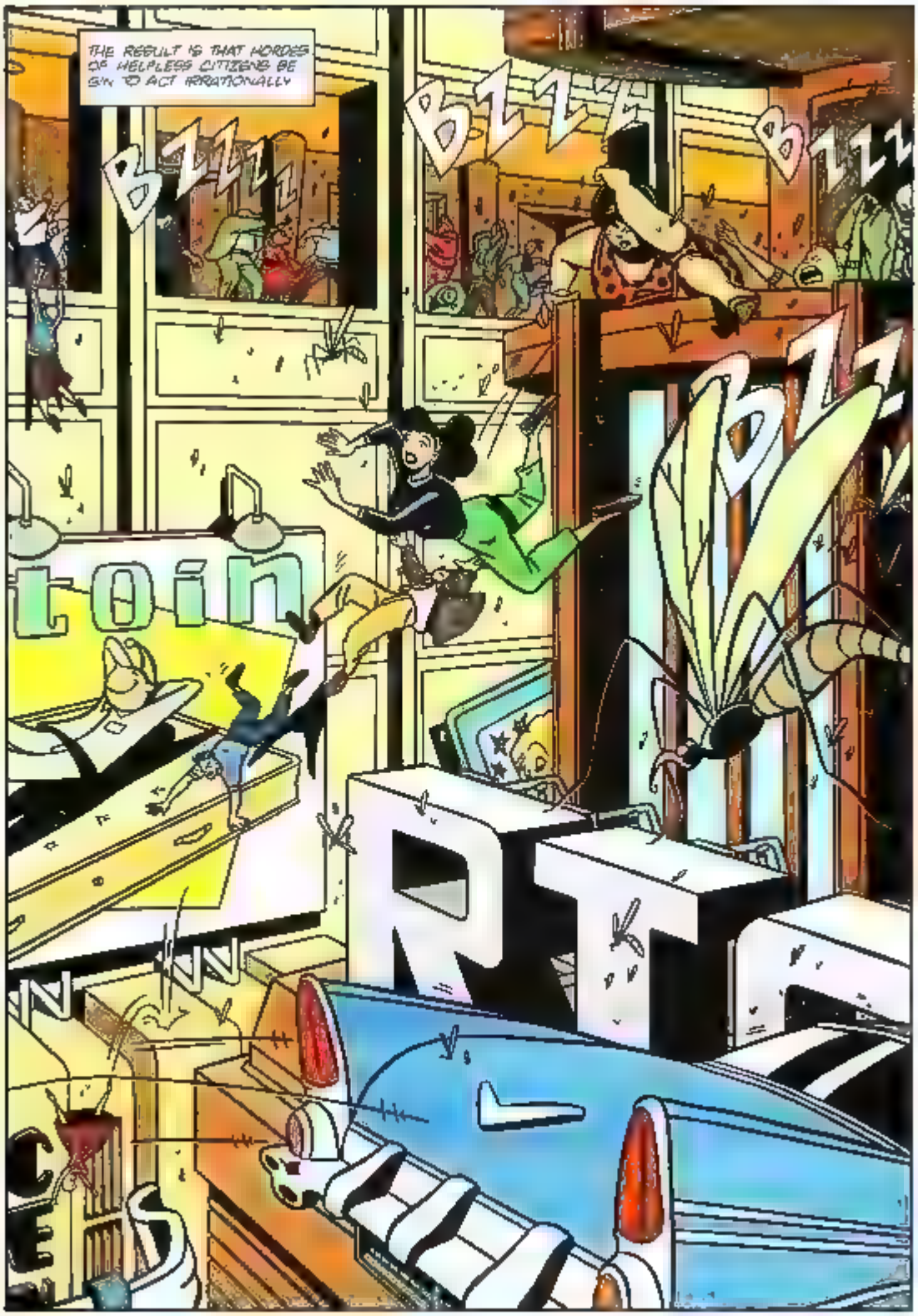
THE CENTRAL POWER PLANT PRIDE AND SALVATION OF ALL THE CITIZENS
PROTECTED BY THE FAITHFUL KEEPERS OF PUBLIC ORDER
HI THERE YOU HUNK! ALL THIS ZEAL DE SERVES A REWARD!
!!

!?
AND ACAPULCO WILL GIVE YOU ONE!
Argh!
ARE YOU HAPPY NOW?
STOP RIGHT WHERE YOU ARE! FREEZE!
PAY ATTENTION TO YOUR HANDS NOT HERS.

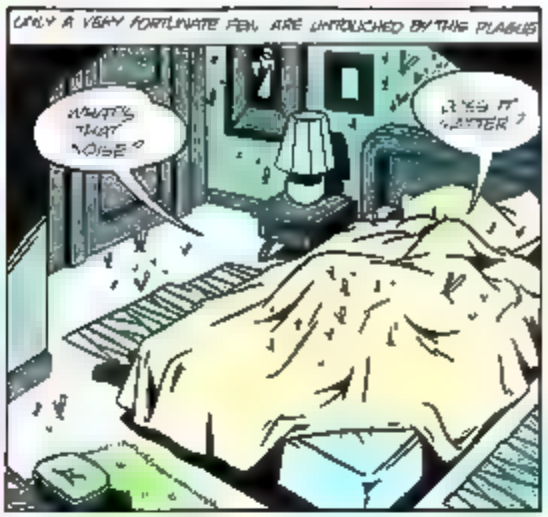

IT'S GLUP, NOT GULP MY NAME IS GLUP!
CRUNCH!
CRUM
GLUP
1
2
3
THE POWER PLANT IS OURS
TOO BAD THE FUN IS OVER!
YOU ARE WRONG, MY DARLING! IT'S JUST BEGINNING BRING OUT THOSE CARTONS

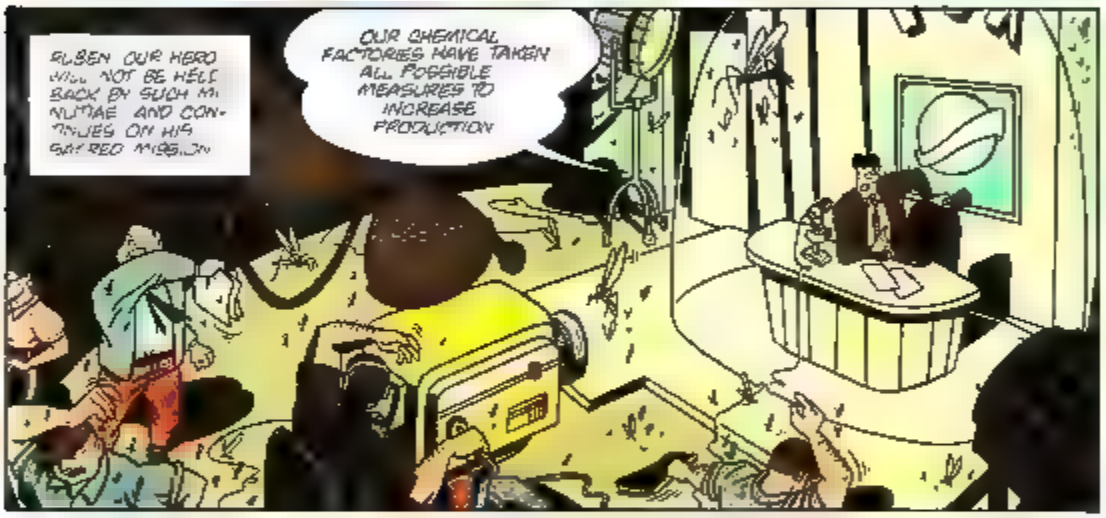

THERE RIGHT NEXT TO ONE OF THE COLD AIR GENERATORS
GLUP ! LET OUR LITTLE FRIENDS OUT !
BZZ!
BZZ!
THE INSTRU MENT OF EVIL !
THE MOSQUITOES ARE ATTRACTED BY THE AIR CURRENT
BZ
THERE GOES MY FIRST GREETING.
HAVE MANY MORE HA HA


BZZZ!
BZZZ!
BZZZ!!
BZZ!
BZZ!
BZZZ!
THE HORDES OF VORACIOUS INSECTS BEGIN TO FEED ON THE HELPLESS INHABITANTS
BZZZ!
BZZZ!
BZZZ!

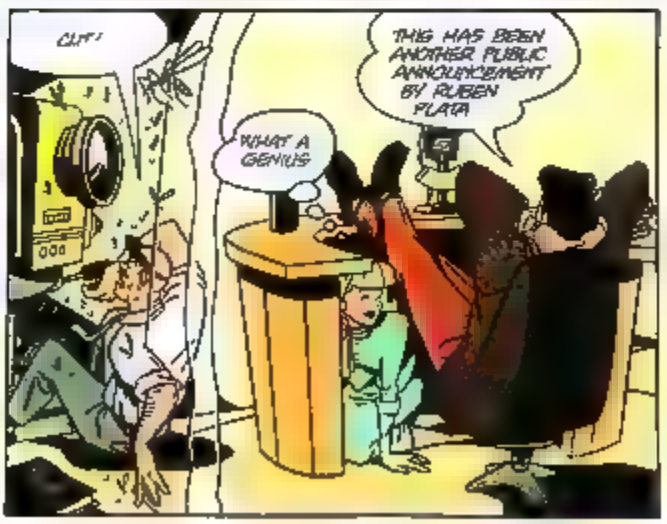

THE RESULT IS THAT HORDES OF HELPLESS CITIZENS BE GIN TO ACT IRRATIONALLY
BZZZZ
BZZZZ
BZZZ
toin
RT

BZZZZ
city

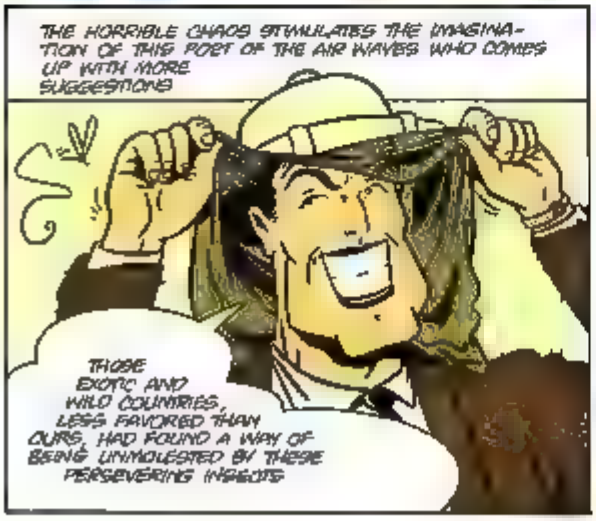

ONLY A VERY FORTUNATE FEW ARE UNTOUCHED BY THE PLAGUE
WHAT'S THAT NOISE ?
IT'S IT GETTER ?


RUBEN OUR HERO WILL NOT BE HELD BACK BY SUCH MINUTIAE AND CONTINUES ON HIS SACRED MISSION
OUR CHEMICAL FACTORIES HAVE TAKEN ALL POSSIBLE MEASURES TO INCREASE PRODUCTION

JUST A QUICK MOVEMENT OF YOUR FINGER AND THE PROBLEM IS SOLVED


CLIK!
THIS HAS BEEN ANOTHER PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT BY RUBEN PLATA
WHAT A GENIUS

A MASS OF HYSTERICAL CONSUMERS RUSH INTO THE SHOPS.
FSSH!
FSSH!

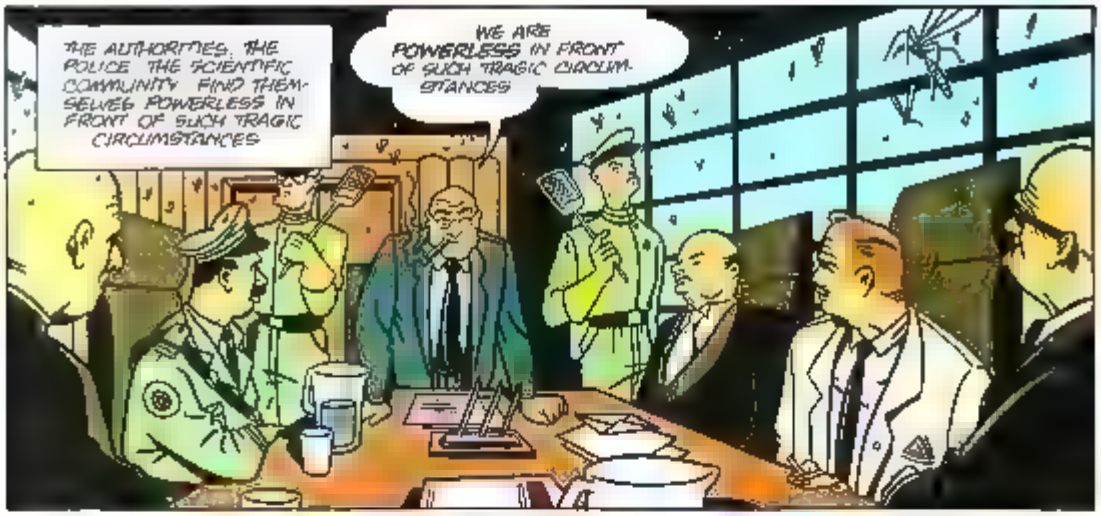

THE HORRIBLE CHAOS STIMULATES THE IMAGINATION OF THIS POET OF THE AIR WAVES WHO COMES UP WITH MORE SUGGESTIONS
THOSE EXOTIC AND WILD COUNTRIES, LESS FAVORED THAN OURS, HAD FOUND A WAY OF BEING UNMOLESTED BY THESE PERSEVERING INSECTS

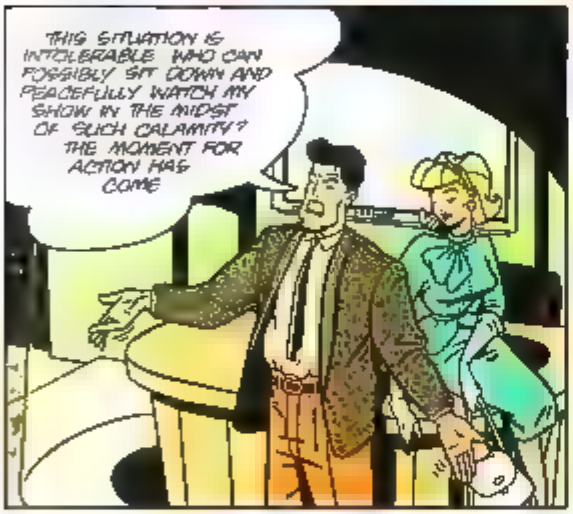
I'LL FOLLOW THEIR EXAMPLE AND YOU FOLLOW MINE!

GOOD FOR YOU, RUBEN!
YOU WERE WONDERFUL!
CONGRATULATIONS MR. PLATA
YOU WERE FANTASTIC, DARLING!
THE IDEA OF THE MOSQUITO NETTING WAS
ONLY A SMALL PART OF WHAT SUCH A MYSTERIOUS ADMIRER DESERVES.
IT'S ME, BOBO
OF COURSE, TONTINA HA, HA, I RECOGNIZED YOU.
"THE NEW "CLIRE" IS ADOPTED EVERYWHERE
IT FITS ME LIKE A GLOVE
IT FITS LIKE A RING ON MY FINGER

"TO ROOMBA BALD MAN ZONE"
HANDS UP! THIS IS A HOLD UP!
HANDS UP! POLICE!
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO TELL THE CLIENTS FROM THE THIEVES..
LOOK KID, AT NIGHT, ALL THE CATS LOOK LIKE TIGERS
BANG
BANG
BANG
BANG
ARG

SUDDENLY THE TROOPERS CAN PRACTICE ONE OF THEIR FAVORITE SPORTS
AND IT WHAT STARTED AS A HUNT FOR THE LOVE OF HEAT ENDS IN AN EXPLOSION

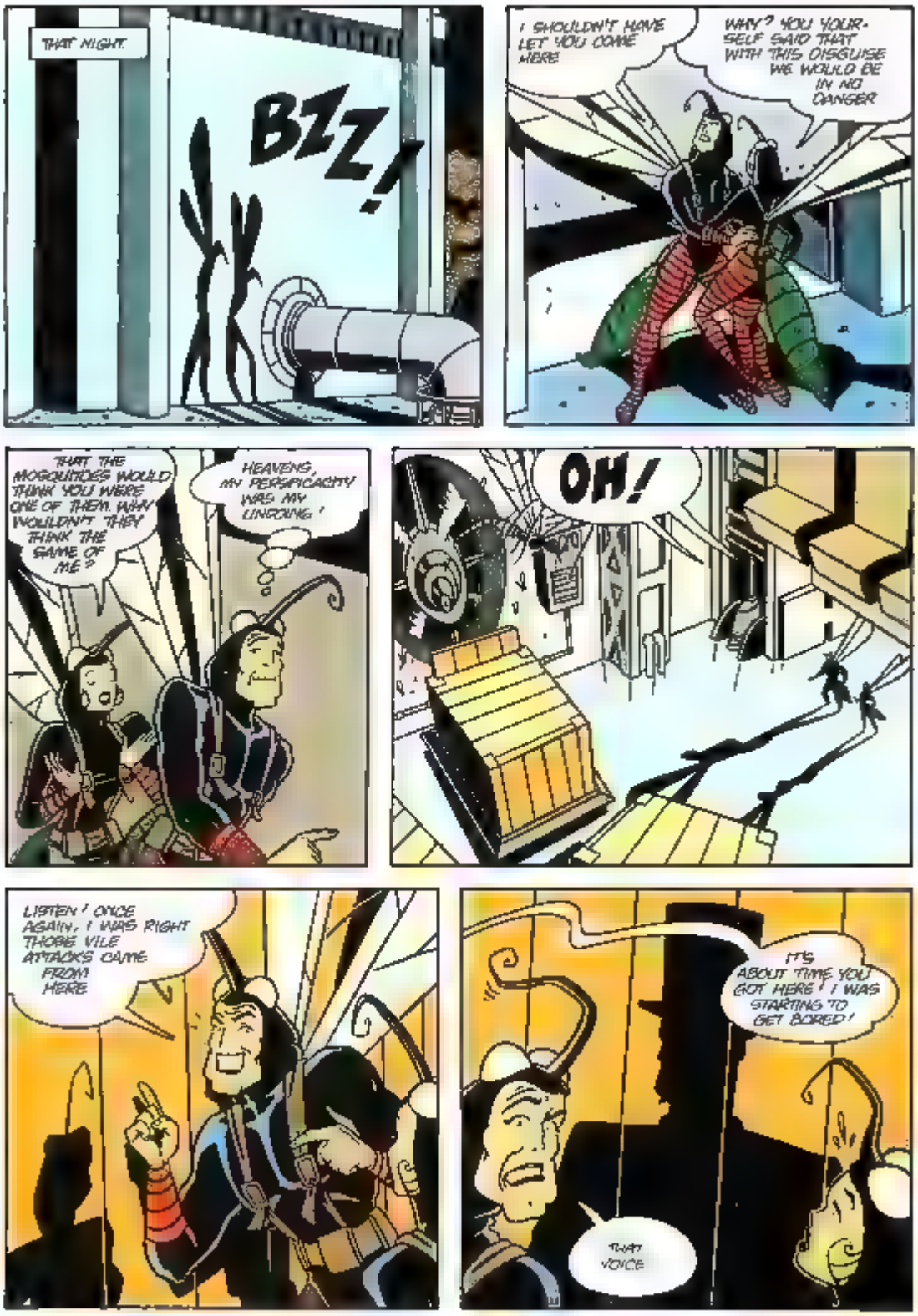

THE AUTHORITIES, THE POLICE, THE SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY, FIND THEMSELVES POWERLESS IN FRONT OF SUCH TRAGIC CIRCUMSTANCES
WE ARE POWERLESS IN FRONT OF SUCH TRAGIC CIRCUMSTANCES


THIS SITUATION IS INTOLERABLE. WHO CAN POSSIBLY SIT DOWN AND PEACEFULLY WATCH AN SHOW IN THE MIDST OF SUCH CALAMITY? THE MOMENT FOR ACTION HAS COME

IF ALL THE CITY'S AIR CONDITIONERS ARE CONNECTED TO THE CENTRAL POWER PLANT AND THE MOSQUITOES ARE COMING FROM THERE, IT MIGHT BE WORTHWHILE TO TAKE A LOOK!
WHAT POWERS OF DEDUCTION!

CAN'T TAKE CREDIT FOR THAT ! WAS BORN WITH IT
WHAT MODESTY!

BUT SHOULDN'T UNDERESTIMATE THE DANGER HAVE TO GO WELL PREPARED
DRESS SHOP


THAT NIGHT.
BZZ!
I SHOULDN'T HAVE LET YOU COME HERE
WHY? YOU YOURSELF SAID THAT WITH THIS DISGUISE WE WOULD BE IN NO DANGER
THAT THE MOSQUITOES WOULD THINK YOU WERE ONE OF THEM. WHY WOULDN'T THEY THINK THE SAME OF ME?
HEAVENS, MY PERSPICACITY WAS MY UNDOING!
OH!
LISTEN! ONCE AGAIN, I WAS RIGHT THOSE VILE ATTACKS CAME FROM HERE
IT'S ABOUT TIME YOU GOT HERE! I WAS STARTING TO GET BORED!
THAT VOICE

OPIUM!
WHO ELSE? AND PLEASE DON'T FORGET MY TITLE "SIR" OPIUM TO YOU!
IT HAD TO BE YOU, THE PRINCE OF EVIL THE KING OF INFAMY, THE SIRE OF ALL VILLAINY
AT LAST YOU RECOGNIZE MY WORTH
FOR A VERY SHORT TIME, YOU CRIMINAL SCUM YOU WILL BE PRISON MEAT
YOU THINK SO?
CRAS
AND WHO, MAY I ASK
CRUNCH!
WILL DARE TO DO SUCH A HEROIC DEED?
NOT YOU, I'M SURE!
BZZZ!
BZZZ
AGH

YOU DON'T EVEN DESERVE THE SMALLEST CREASE IN MY GLOVES!
BZZ!
YOU CAN'T BELIEVE THAT CAME WITH-OUT TAKING ANY PRECAUTIONS? RIGHT?
PIII
POLICE!
MORE PUPPETS! WHAT A DELIGHTFUL EVENING!
IT WAS A TRAP! WE'RE SURROUNDED!
JUMP
PLOW!
WHIP!

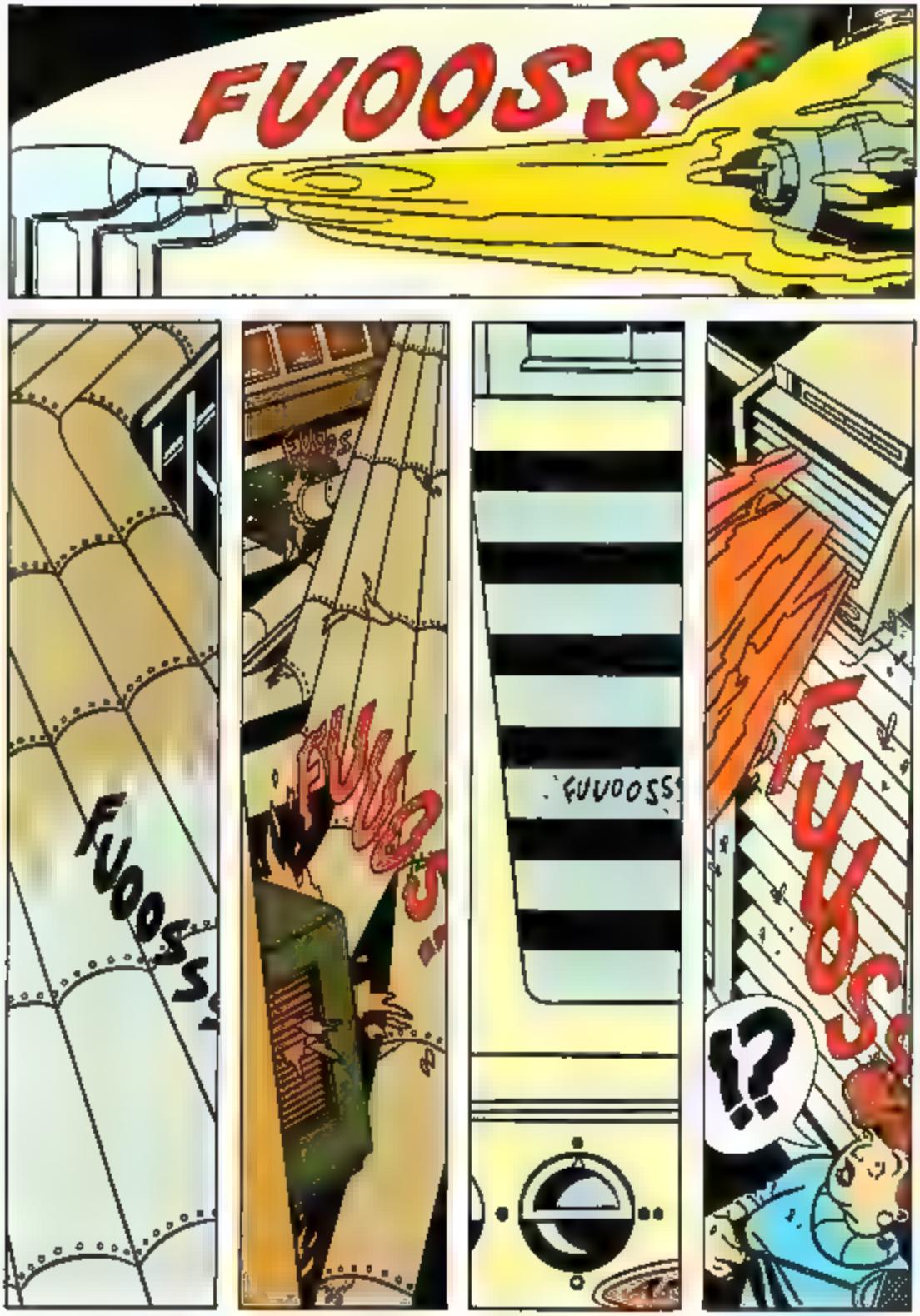
SOK!

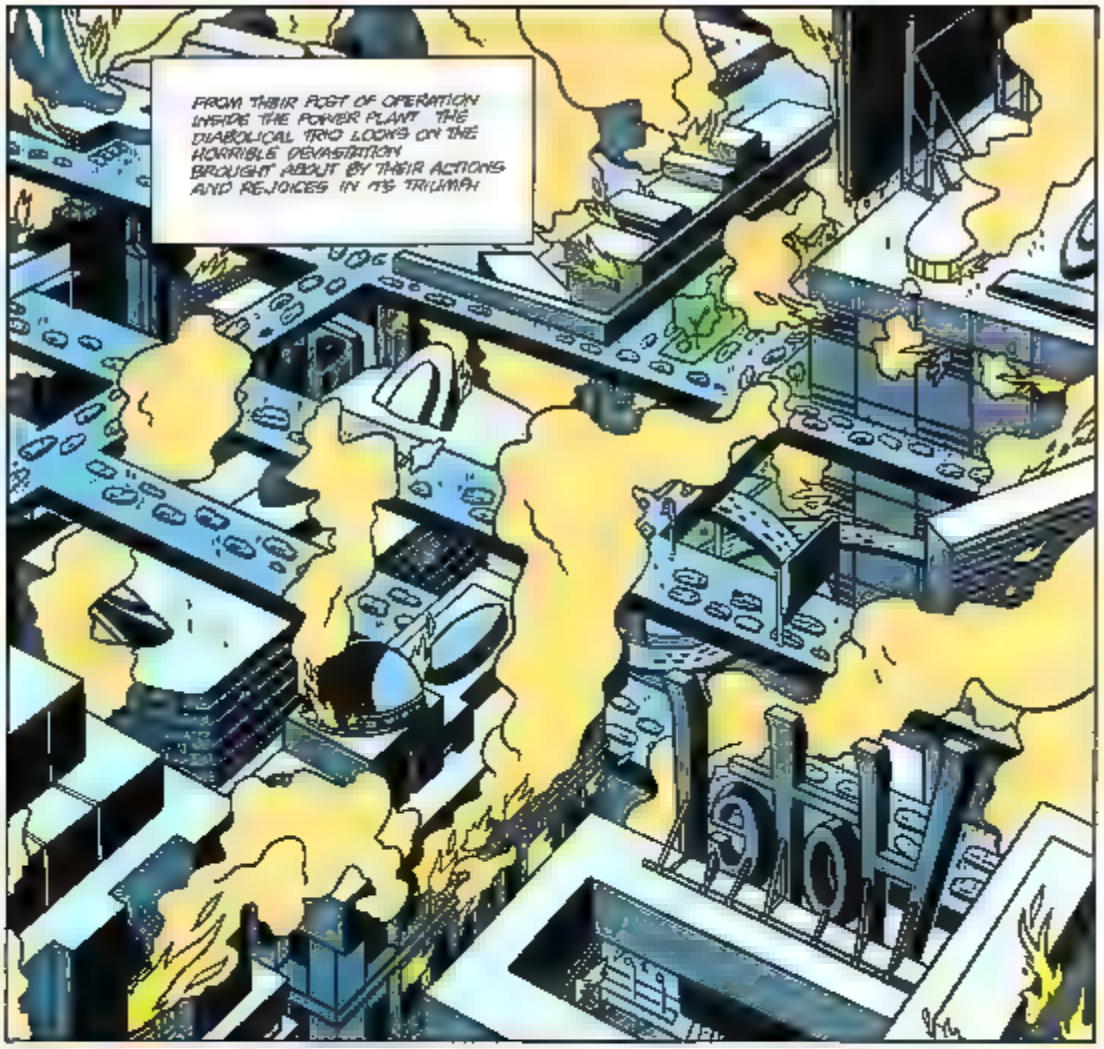
EEEK!
TOP!

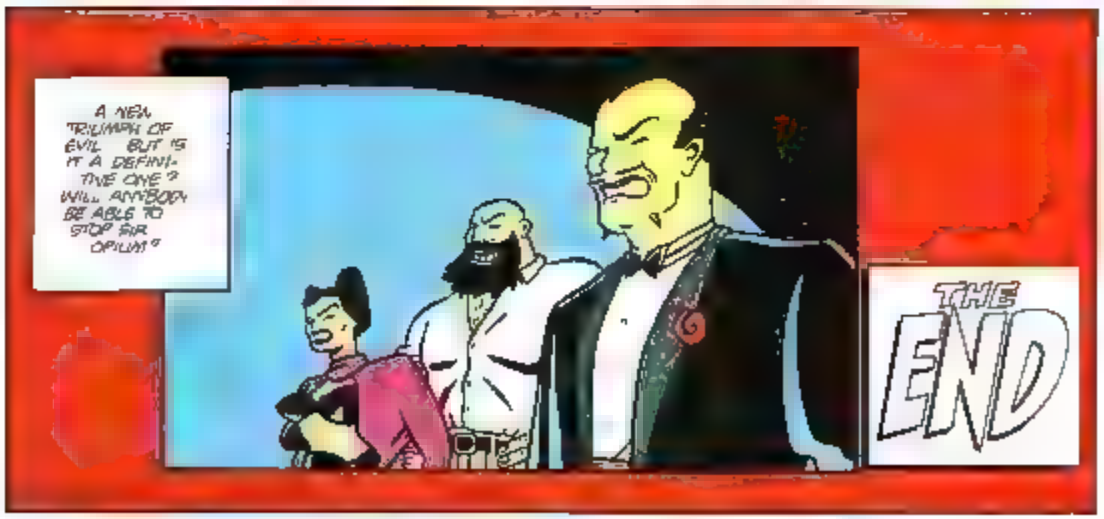
!
HAVE FUN GLUP! I'M GOING TO BE VERY BUSY!
DID YOU MISS ME DARLING?
YOU'RE NOT TRYING TO
OF COURSE I AM!
OH!
YOU WON'T WIN THIS ONE, YOU VILLAIN! EVIL ALWAYS ENDS UP IN HUMILIATION UGH
CROCK
CRASH
I NEED A REST YOUR RHETORIC OPPRESSES ME

AND WHEN I FEEL OPPRESSED NEED EXERCISE
OTHERWISE MY LL. ALIGNOR CAN HAVE THE BETTER OF ME ! AND THEN I AM NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR MY ACTIONS.
HEAVENS HE'S MAD!
ZRS
DO YOU WANT ME TO REPEAT MY EXPLANATION ?
TOMP!

MINUTES LATER
WHY DON'T THE MOSQUITOES BOTHER THEM?
I'M SURE YOU'RE ASKING YOURSELF WHY THE MOSQUITOES DON'T BOTHER US
HEAVENS WHAT A CONVOLUTED MIND!
MOSQUITOES LIKE HOT BLOOD
AND THE ONLY COLD BLOOD IN THIS CITY IS OURS
AND THIS TRAIT WILL BE MOST CONVENIENT WHEN THE SECOND PART OF MY PLAN WILL COME INTO PLAY
CLICK!
OPEN THE SPIGOT!
MY LITTLE PESTILENCE WAS ONLY A PROLOGUE TO PUT YOU IN THE RIGHT "HOT" MOOD THE REAL HELL IS STARTING RIGHT NOW
FUUOOSSS


FUOOSS!
FUOOSS!
FUUOOSS
!?


FROM THEIR POST OF OPERATION INSIDE THE POWER PLANT THE DIABOLICAL TRIO LOOKS ON THE HORRIBLE DEVASTATION BROUGHT ABOUT BY THEIR ACTIONS AND REJOICES IN ITS TRIUMPH

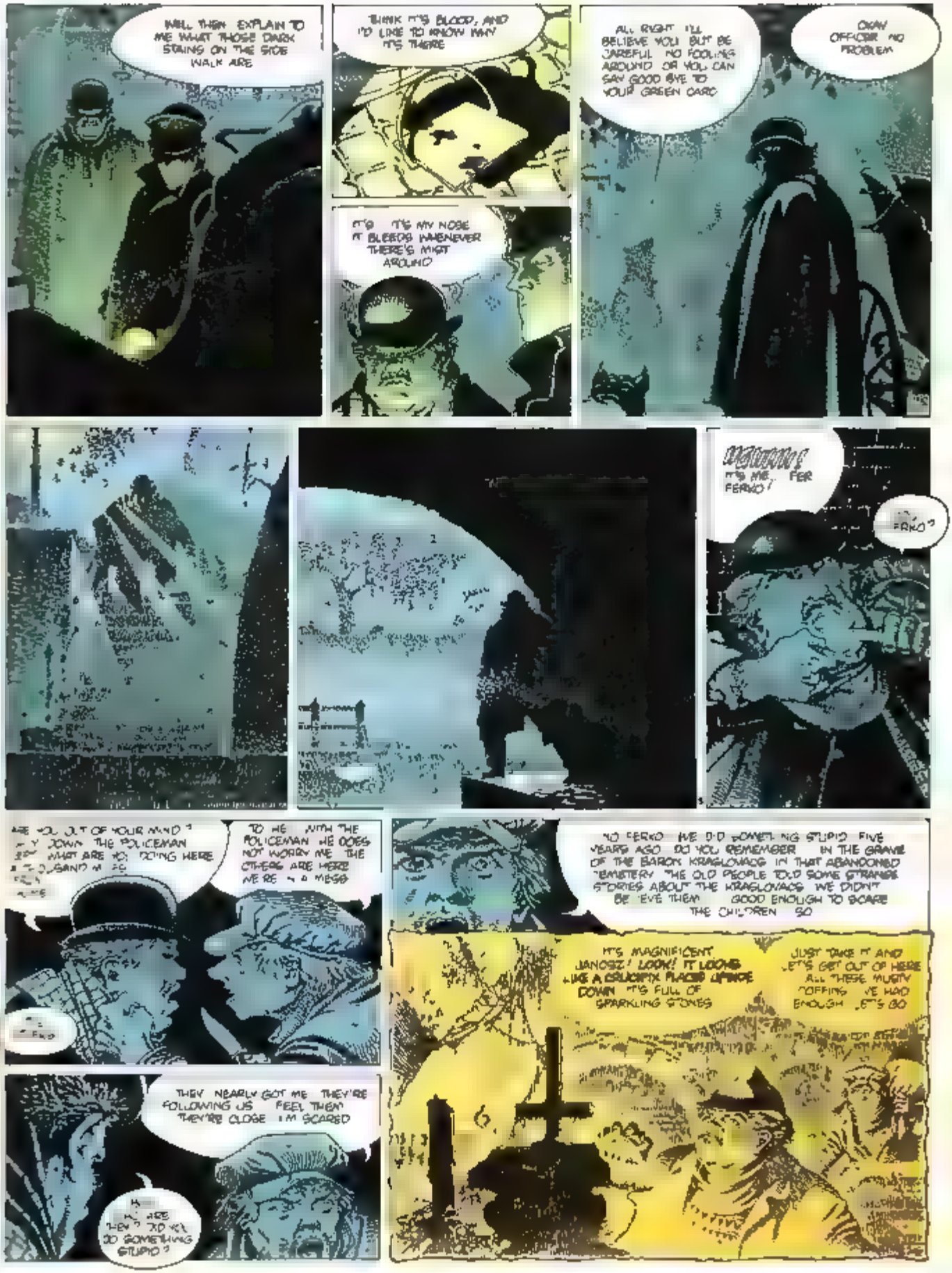

A NEW TRIUMPH OF EVIL BUT IS IT A DEFINITIVE ONE? WILL ANYBODY BE ABLE TO STOP SIR OPIUM?
THE END

THE REVENGE

SPLAFF!
TO JET

HEY THERE SLOW DOWN HOW ABOUT LETTING ME AT THIS BEAST IS GOING TO MAKE ME ALL TOWN
YOU HERE?
GET OUT OF HERE HEY
HEAVENS
HA DID YOU SEE THE EXPRESSION ON THAT DOG'S FACE?
IT'S A FACT THE LONGER YOU LIVE WITH CERTAIN ANIMALS THE MORE YOU LOOK LIKE THEM

HE LEFT THIS PIECE OF PAPER ON THE TABLE. THERE'S SOMETHING WRITTEN ON IT
GOOD EVENING SIR. POLICE. YOUR PAPERS, WERE YOU CALLING SOMEONE JUST NOW? IS EVERYTHING ALRIGHT?
A FEW QUESTIONS SIR... FROM YOUR PAPERS ARE IN ORDER. HAVE YOU NOTICED ANYTHING OUT OF THE ORDINARY AROUND HERE?


WELL THEN EXPLAIN TO ME WHAT THOSE DARK STAINS ON THE SIDE WALK ARE
I THINK IT'S BLOOD, AND I'D LIKE TO KNOW WHY IT'S THERE
IT'S MY NOSE IT BLEEDS WHENEVER THERE'S MIST AROUND
ALL RIGHT I'LL BELIEVE YOU BUT BE CAREFUL NO FOOLING AROUND OR YOU CAN SAY GOOD BYE TO YOUR GREEN CARD
OKAY OFFICER NO PROBLEM
WAUUU! IT'S ME FER FERKO!
FERKO?
ARE YOU OUT OF YOUR MIND? COME DOWN THE POLICEMAN MAY WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE AND WHO ARE YOU
TO HELL WITH THE POLICEMAN HE DOES NOT WORRY ME THE OTHERS ARE HERE WE'RE IN A MESS
NO FERKO WE DID SOMETHING STUPID FIVE YEARS AGO DO YOU REMEMBER IN THE GRAVE OF THE BARON KRAGLOVACS IN THAT ABANDONED CEMETERY THE OLD PEOPLE TOLD SOME STRANGE STORIES ABOUT THE KRAGLOVACS WE DIDN'T BELIEVE THEM GOOD ENOUGH TO SCARE THE CHILDREN SO
IT'S MAGNIFICENT JANOSZ! LOOK! IT LOOKS LIKE A CRUCIFIX PLACED UPSIDE DOWN IT'S FULL OF SPARKLING STONES
JUST TAKE IT AND LET'S GET OUT OF HERE ALL THESE MUSTY TOFFING WE HAD ENOUGH LET'S GO
THEY NEARLY GOT ME THEY'RE FOLLOWING US FEEL THEM THEY'RE CLOSE I'M SCARED
WHO ARE THEY? DO SOMETHING STUPID!

PERHAPS THERE NOTHING AND THE LAST OF THE HEMBLOMACS BLEW UP THE BURIAL SITE AND ALL THE COFFINS !

THE DOG COME HERE
THE DEVIL TAKE HIM WHO COULD HAVE DONE THAT ?
THEY DID IT FERKO THEY WON'T LEAVE US ALONE UNTIL THEY GET BACK WHAT WE STOLE FROM THEM INCLUDING YOUR SHARE
YOU LITTLE BASTARD DO YOU THINK I'LL BELIEVE YOUR GHOST STORIES AND LET YOU STEAL MY STUFF ? YOU LITTLE SHIT !
YOU'RE FREE TO BELIEVE WHAT YOU LIKE, FERKO IT TOOK ME MONTHS TO FIND YOU. DIDN'T WANT TO BE THE ONLY ONE TO DIE WHILE YOU WERE HAVING A GOOD TIME. BEING A TOURIST YOU MUST GIVE YOUR STUFF BACK TOO YOU CAN'T AVOID THAT
I'M GOING TO
STOP RIGHT WHERE YOU ARE
HOLD YOUR HANDS UP AND HEAD TOWARD THE PRECINCT
I WAS RIGHT TO COME BACK AND CHECK ON YOU YOUR EXPLANATION WAS UN-CONVINCING THINK TONIGHT WILL BE A LONG ONE OFF WE GO
CAREFUL ! LOOK BEHIND YOU !
THAT'S A CHILDISH PLOY IF EVER HEARD ONE STAY RIGHT WHERE YOU ARE AND
BANG

THERE HE DOOR IS OPEN

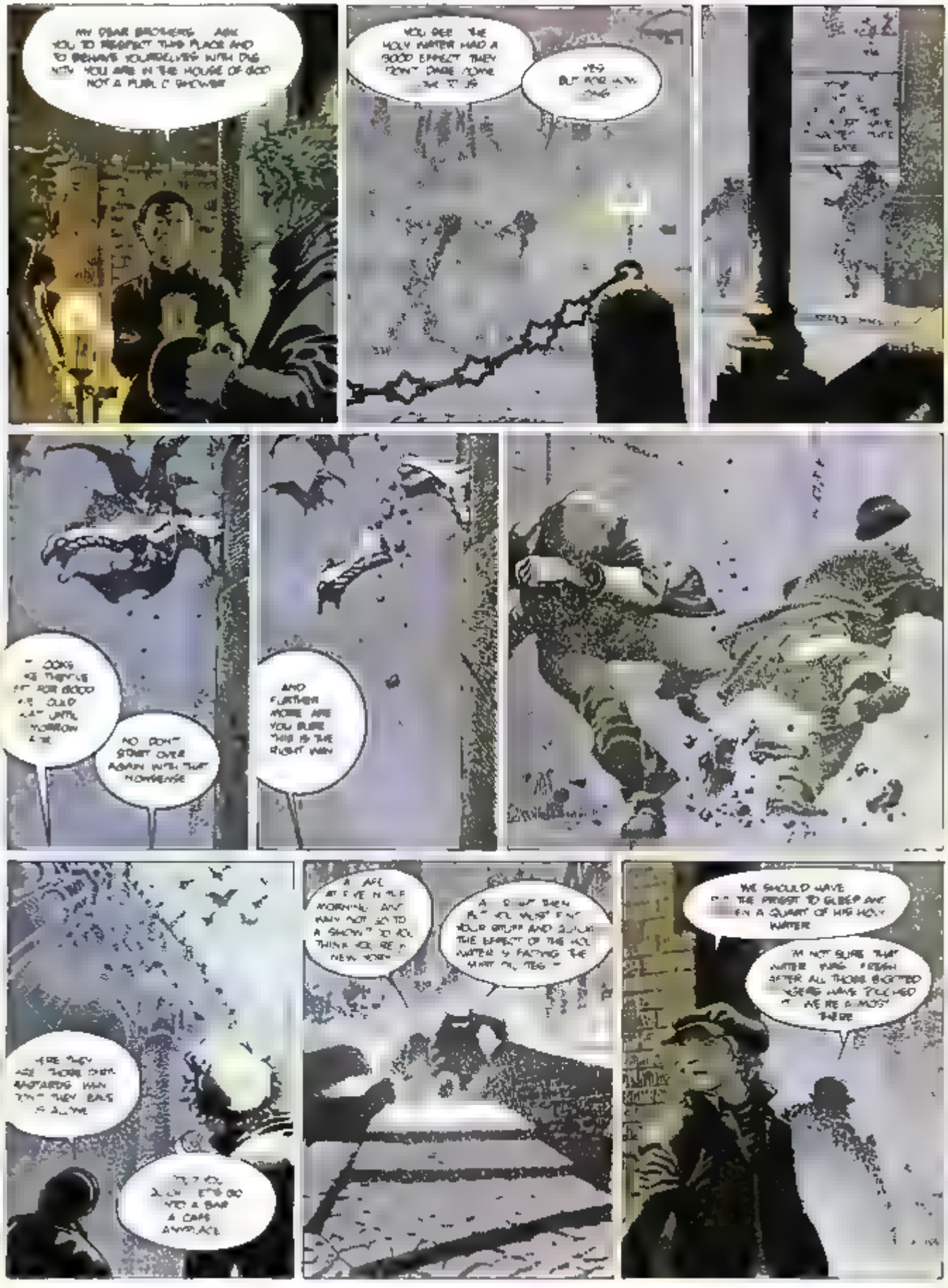
PHEW FOR A MOMENT THERE THOUGHT WE WERE COOKED
DO YOU BELIEVE ME NOW ? DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU'VE GOT TO DO IF YOU DON'T WANT TO SPEND THE REST OF YOUR LIFE IN THIS HELL ?
JERK !!

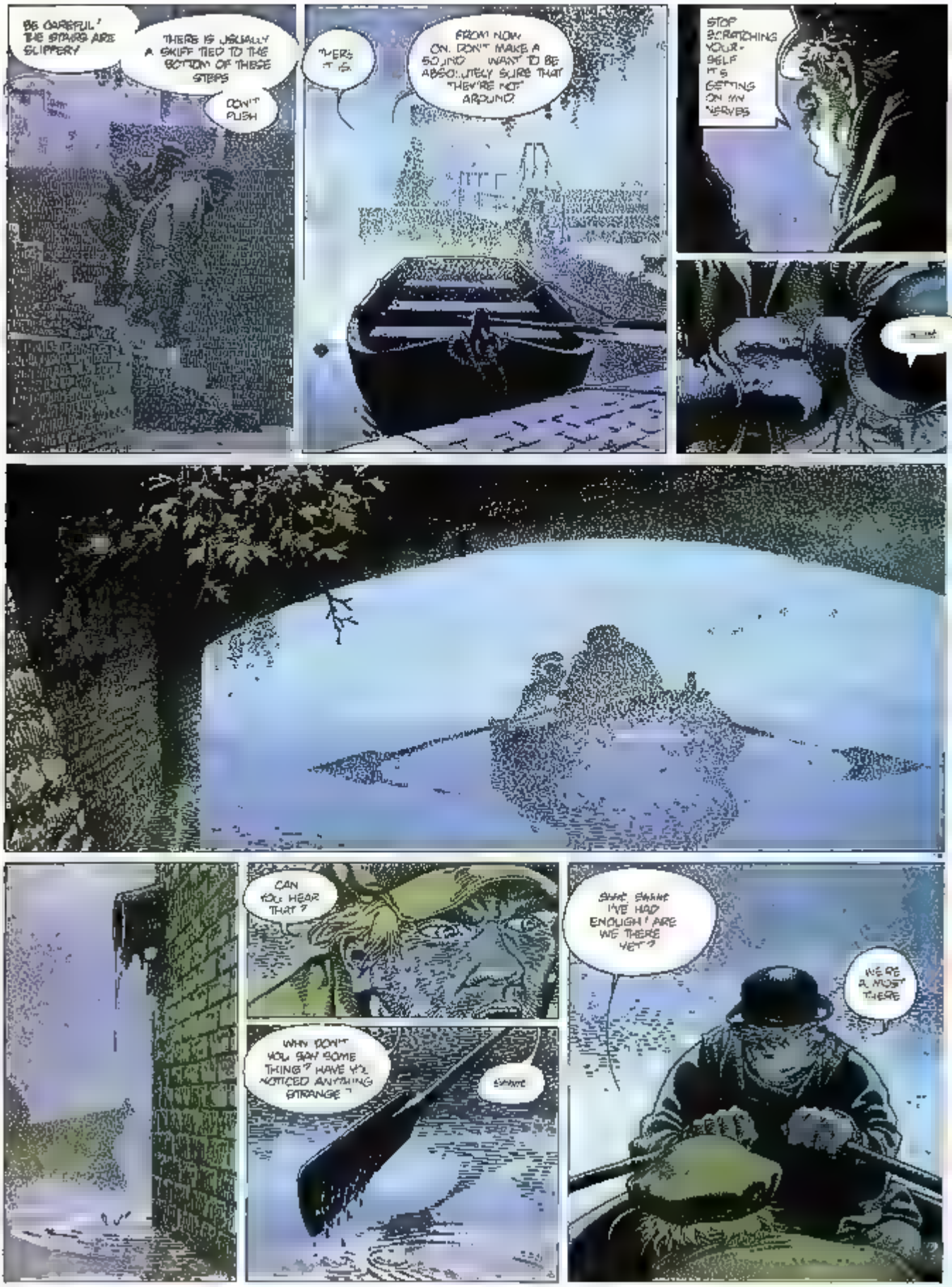
JUST A MINUTE LET ME CATCH MY BREATH STILL CAN'T BE LIEVE THAT
FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE WHAT MORE DO YOU NEED ? DO YOU WANT ME TO SHOW YOU WHERE THEY WOUNDED ME !

OKAY YOU WAIT I'LL GO GET MY STUFF YOU WAIT HERE FOR ME
NO WAY NOT THAT STUPID WE'LL BOTH GO IF LET YOU GO ALONE, YOU'D COME BACK WITH SOMEONE'S OLD GARBAGE

YOU'RE IN QUITE A HURRY IF WE GO OUT NOW THEY'LL CATCH US
REALIZE THAT FOLLOW ME THAT POINT OVER THERE GIVES ME AN IDEA

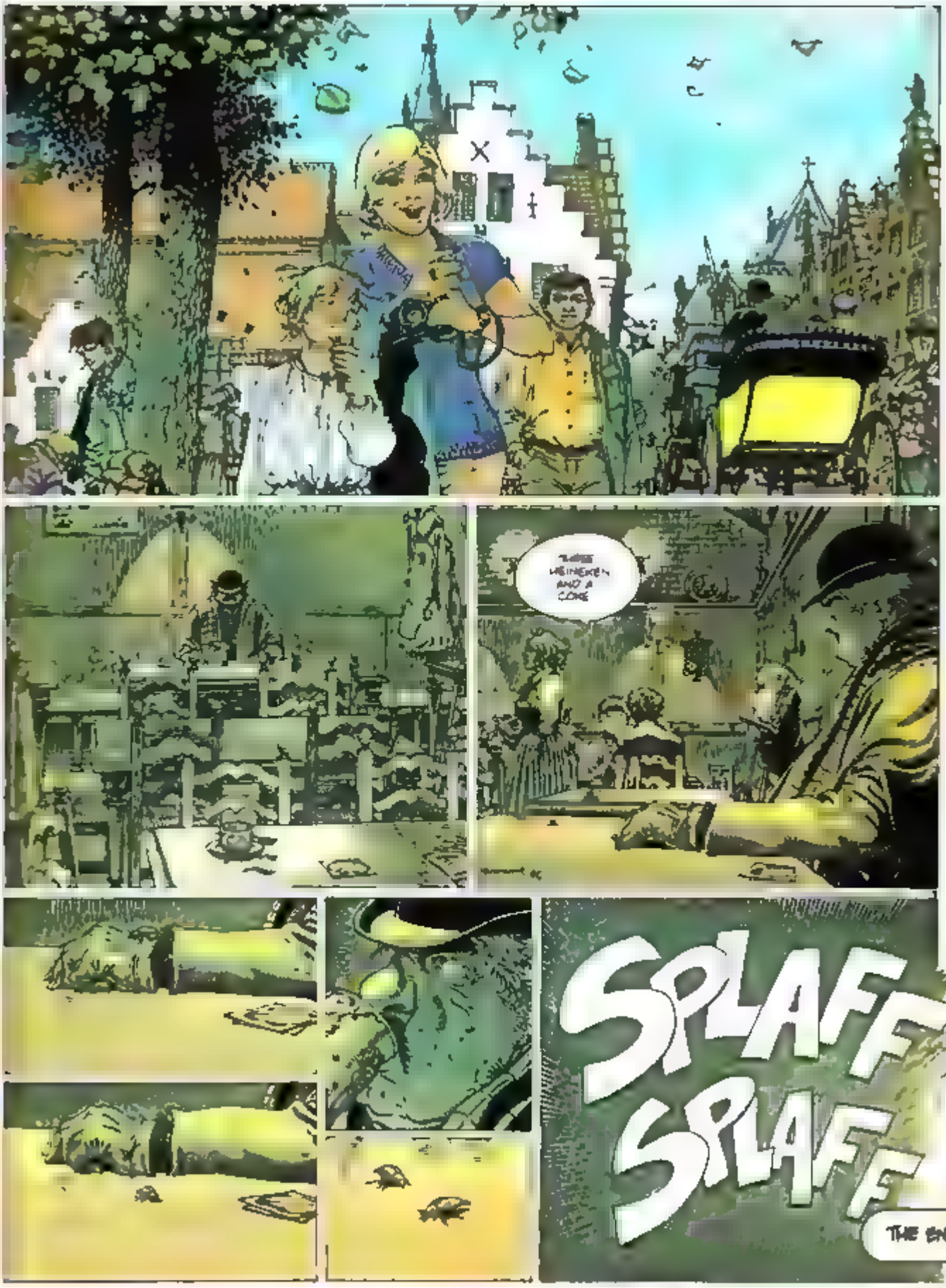
GO AND [illegible] STUFF DON'T BE AFRAID TO GET TOO NEAR THE MORE TO HAVE ON YOU THE FURTHER AWAY THEY STAY
AREN'T YOU TAKING YOUR SHOES OFF ?


MY DEAR BROTHERS ASK YOU TO RESPECT THIS PLACE AND TO BEHAVE YOURSELVES WITH DUE NOW YOU ARE IN THE HOUSE OF GOD NOT A PUBLIC SHOWER
YOU SEE THE HOLY WATER HAD A GOOD EFFECT THEY DON'T DARE COME
YES BUT FOR HOW LONG
NO DON'T START OVER AGAIN WITH THAT NONSENSE
AND FURTHER MORE ARE YOU SURE THIS IS THE RIGHT MAN
WE SHOULD HAVE THE PRIEST TO SLEEP AND A QUART OF HIS HOLY WATER
I'M NOT SURE THAT WATER WAS FRESH AFTER ALL THOSE BIGOTED HANDS HAVE TOUCHED IT WE'RE ALMOST THERE


BE CAREFUL! THE STAIRS ARE SLIPPERY
THERE IS USUALLY A SKIFF TIED TO THE BOTTOM OF THESE STEPS
DON'T PUSH
HERE IT IS
FROM NOW ON, DON'T MAKE A SOUND WANT TO BE ABSOLUTELY SURE THAT THEY'RE NOT AROUND
STOP SCRATCHING YOURSELF IT'S GETTING ON MY NERVES
CAN YOU HEAR THAT?
WHY DON'T YOU SAY SOMETHING? HAVE YOU NOTICED ANYTHING STRANGE?
SHHH
SHHH, SHHH I'VE HAD ENOUGH! ARE WE THERE YET?
WE'RE ALMOST THERE

...N DOWN. ...RE IN TOO ...OF A
HOW CAN YOU PROVE THAT YOU'VE GIVEN IT ALL BACK?
AND WHOS GOING TO PROVE TO ME THAT YOU'RE NOT TRYING TO TRICK ME
COME ON CALM DOWN AND LOWER YOUR VOICE
FERKO!! NO!!
JANOSZ!
QUICKLY! QUICKLY!
LOOK OVER THERE! THE BRICK WALL!!
CONC

NO! GO AWAY! I'LL GIVE EVERYTHING BACK! HAVE MERCY! EVERYTHING


THREE HEINEKEN AND A COKE
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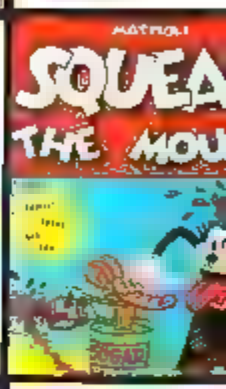

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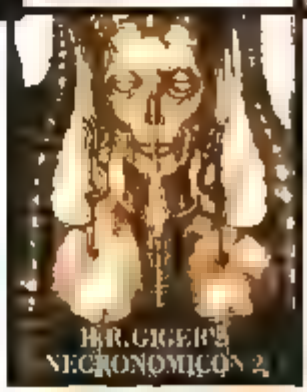

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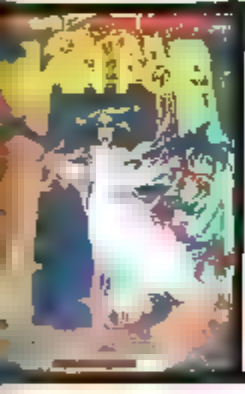

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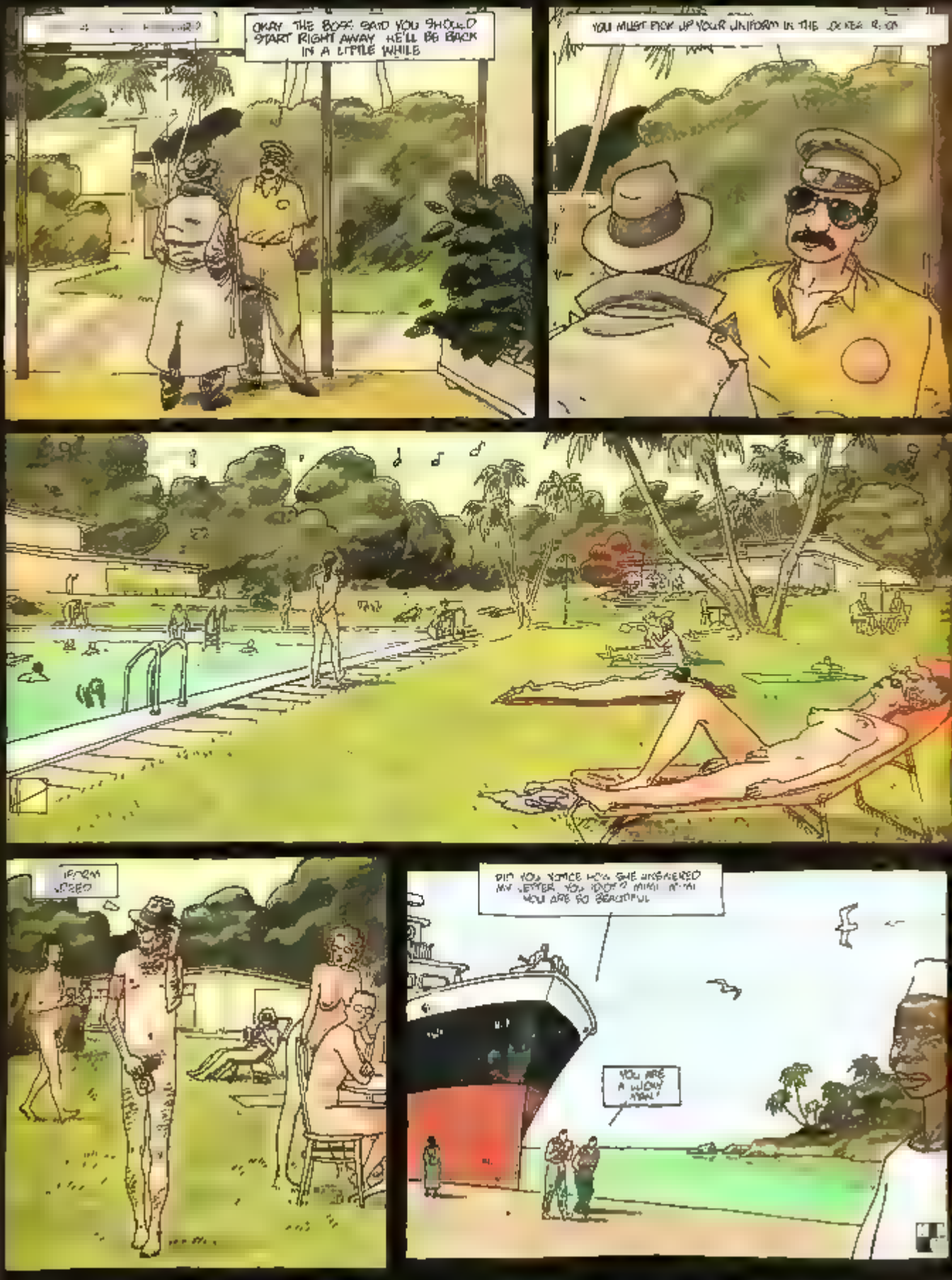
Manuel Montano and the Case of the Nudist Colony Rip-Off

PLIC
PLIC
MY THROAT IS AS DRY AS A BEDOUIN'S TENT BUT FREDDY'S WON'T OPEN FOR ANOTHER HOUR
WHERE CAN THE TWO OF SPADES BE?
DRINK
IS THIS MR MONTANO'S OFFICE?
MAN OFFICE WHAT DO YOU WANT?
LISTEN CAREFULLY I WANT TO ENTRUST YOU WITH AN URGENT AND SERIOUS CASE I HAVE NOTICED SOME IRREGULARITY IN THE DAILY EARNINGS OF MY BUSINESS AND I WANT TO FIND OUT WHO IS STEALING MY HARD EARNED MONEY.
WHAT? YOU'RE ALSO SWEATING? THAT'S REALLY TOO BAD
I THINK THE BEST THING WOULD BE FOR YOU TO COME IN AS A NEW EMPLOYEE SO THAT YOU'LL BE ABLE TO MOVE AROUND WITHOUT RAISING ANY SUSPICION
ALL RIGHT BUT WHAT KIND OF BUSINESS ARE YOU IN?

OWN A NUDIST COLONY
A WHAT? A NUDIST COLONY??
IT'S A HEAVENLY PLACE COVERED WITH FLOWERS PALM TREES AND ACACIAS FULL OF NAKED WOMEN WITH THEIR SKIN STILL WET FROM THEIR SWIM THAT'S IT DO YOU ACCEPT THE JOB?
BRRRR YES! WHO SHOULD ASK FOR?
DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT JUST TELL THE DOORMAN THAT YOU'RE THE NEW LIFEGUARD HE WILL DIRECT YOU TO ME I'LL BE WAITING
BUT I CAN'T SWIM!
MONTANO CROSSES THE CITY LIKE A SPARK, WITHOUT CEASING FOR A MOMENT TO THINK ABOUT HIS NEW CASE
NAKED WOMEN !!
OKAY BOSS! I'LL BE AT JOKER MAN AT 2:30 WHEN THE GUARD GOES OFF DUTY YES I'LL TAKE IT, OF COURSE

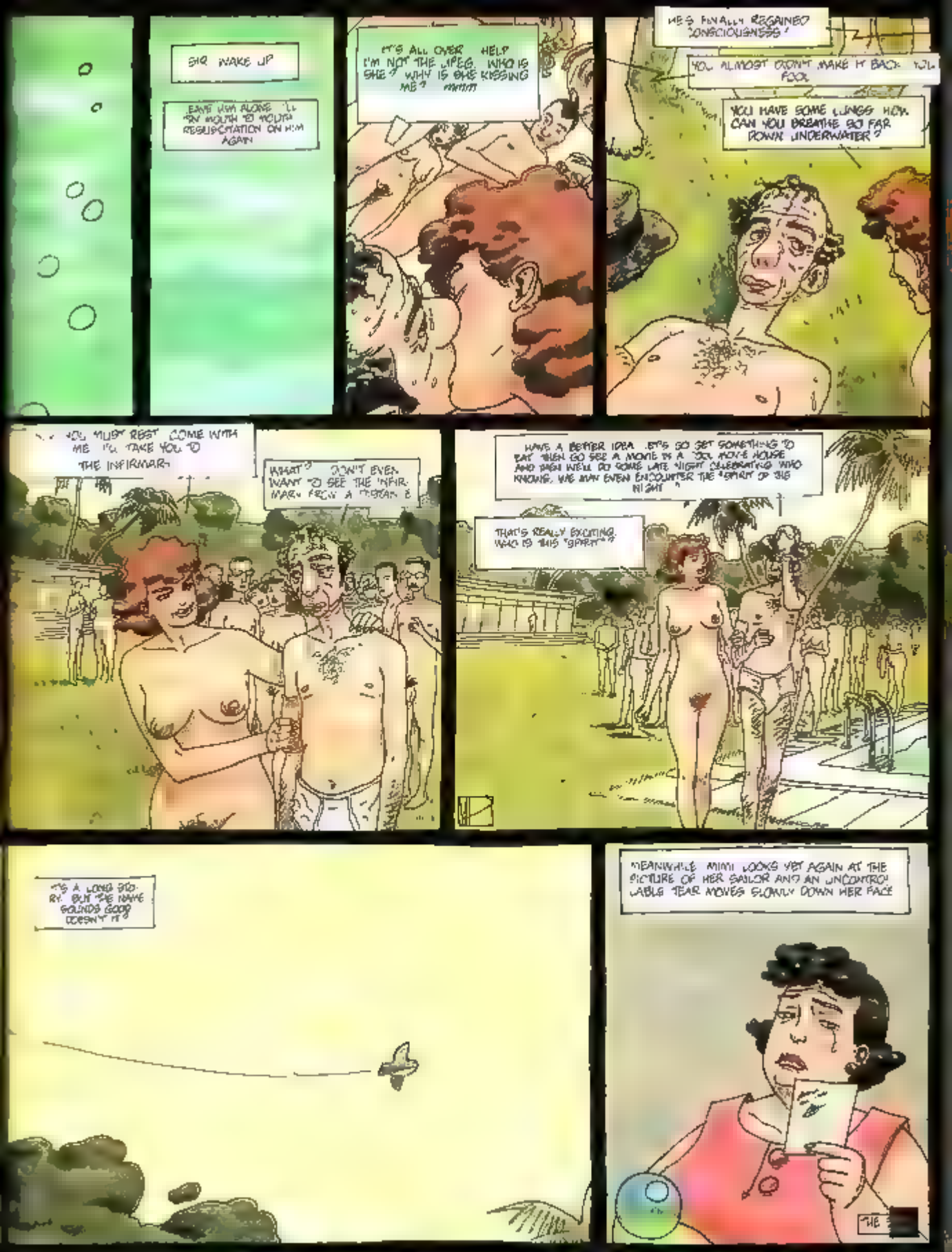

OKAY THE BOSS SAID YOU SHOULD START RIGHT AWAY HE'LL BE BACK IN A LITTLE WHILE
YOU MUST PICK UP YOUR UNIFORM IN THE
DID YOU NOTICE HOW SHE ANSWERED MY LETTER YOU IDIOT? MIKI M'AI YOU ARE SO BEAUTIFUL
YOU ARE A LUCKY MAN!

JUST LOOK NATURAL & EASE INDIFFERENT
OOOF
UP! WHAT ENERGY WHERE ARE YOU GOING IN SUCH A HURRY?
OH PLEASE EXCUSE ME LADIES I DIDN'T SEE YOU
WELL YOU SHOULD BE PAYING MORE ATTENTION BUT SO IF YOU'S NOT TOO MUCH TROUBLE TO PAY ATTENTION
ARE YOU THE NEW LIFEGUARD?
ME YES OF COURSE ISN'T IT OBVIOUS?
WELL WHEN FINISH MY CIGARETTE I'LL GO IN THERE AND DROWN. OKAY?
SIR WOULDN'T YOU SHOULDN'T PUSH YOUR LUCK
WELL WE'LL SEE YOU LATER AND TAKE CARE THAT YOU DON'T WET ALL YOUR CIGARETTES WHEN YOU GO TO THE BATHROOM
CIAO TARZAN
SIGH
NOW LET'S TAKE A WALK TO EXPLORE THE PREMISES

VERY INTERESTING ... COULD SWEAR THAT IS THE TICKET SELLER WHO IS TAKING PICTURES OF THE CLIENTELE I'M SURE SHE COLLECTS ATHLETIC YOUNG MEN
SHE SEEMS TO BE IN A HURRY
A BUYER
IT LOOKS LIKE THE TICKET SELLER IS GIVING THAT GUY AN ENVELOPE WITH PICTURES OF NAKED CLIENTS AND THE GUY IS GIVING SOMETHING BACK TO HER-- MONEY! CAN THIS HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH THE IRREGULARITY IN THE DAILY REVENUES?
UNTIL NEXT WEEK MUM! GIVE THEM MY LOVE, HA HA!
LOUSY WORM!
SHE'S COMING THIS WAY LUCKILY I HAD FORESEEN THE POSSIBILITY OF A COMPROMISING SITUATION SUCH AS THIS ONE AND I KNEW WOULD BE NEEDING SOMETHING QUICKLY
INTERESTING LOOKING ENVELOPE!
AHH WHAT DO YOU WANT?

LOOK AT ALL THESE PICTURES! ARE THESE THE ONES THAT YOUR FRIEND REFUSED TO TAKE?
DON'T TOUCH THEM.
BUT WHAT IS THIS? I DON'T UNDERSTAND...
THOSE ARE MY GUNS MY FIANCES
I FIND MY FIANCES THROUGH AN AD IN THE PAPER. AND WHEN THEY ASK FOR A PICTURE IF SENT THEM MINE, THEY WOULD NEVER WRITE TO ME AGAIN SO SEND THEM ONE OF THE GIRLS INSTEAD.
I SEE. BUT WHAT ABOUT THAT GUY WHAT IS HIS ROLE IN THIS?
THAT JERK? HE'S THE JANITOR HE CAUGHT ME TAKING A PICTURE ONE OF THE FIRST TIMES AND TOLD HIM MY STORY THINKING HE WOULD UNDERSTAND AND HE REALLY DID. UNDERSTAND EVER SINCE THEN HE COMES FOR PERSONAL ADS IN MAGAZINES
HE FINDS OUT THE ADDRESS ES OF MY GUNS AND BLACKMAILS ME THREATENING TO SEND THEM A PICTURE OF ME
YOU TAKE MONEY OUT OF THE TILL TO PAY HIM! BUT DO YOU KEEP CONTACTING THE NAMES IN THE ADS HE GIVES YOU IF HE BLACKMAILS YOU?
WELL THE FLESH IS WEAK ESPECIALLY WHEN IN LOVE! TODAY FOR INSTANCE, HE GAVE ME AN AD BY A LION HUNTER!
YOU WON'T TELL THE BOSS WILL YOU? I PROMISE I WON'T TOUCH HIS MONEY ANYMORE GIVE YOU MY WORD!
WELL THAT MEANS THAT WON'T GET PAID TODAY THAT'S ALL RIGHT
YOU ARE A GOOD MAN. THANK YOU!!
Mmmmmmmm...

AND AS A MEMENTO I'LL GIVE YOU THIS PICTURE
MORE
COULDN'T YOU GIVE ME A FEW MORE IN RETURN FOR BEING SO KIND?
WHO DO YOU LIKE?
REALLY DON'T KNOW NEXT NEXT NEXT THAT ONE! THE REDHEAD!
WELL YOU CAN GIVE HER TO ME LATER HAVE TO GO NOW SOMEONE IS CRYING FOR HELP
BUT THE SWIMMING POOL IS OVER THERE
YES I KNOW
THERE HE IS!
ARGH HE'S TOO LATE
HI THERE GUYS!
NO WAIT YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND LET ME EXPLAIN
HOOAH!


SIR WAKE UP
LEAVE HIM ALONE I'LL GIVE MOUTH TO MOUTH RESUSCITATION ON HIM AGAIN
IT'S ALL OVER HELP I'M NOT THE LIFEG. WHO IS SHE ? WHY IS SHE KISSING ME ? MMMM
HE'S FINALLY REGAINED CONSCIOUSNESS !
YOU ALMOST DIDN'T MAKE IT BACK YOU FOOL
YOU HAVE SOME LUNGS HON. CAN YOU BREATHE SO FAR DOWN UNDERWATER ?
YOU MUST REST COME WITH ME I'LL TAKE YOU TO THE INFIRMARY
WHAT ? DON'T EVEN WANT TO SEE THE INFIRMARY FROM A DISTANCE
HAVE A BETTER IDEA LET'S GO GET SOMETHING TO EAT THEN GO SEE A MOVIE IN A DRIVE-IN MOVIE HOUSE AND THEN WE'LL DO SOME LATE NIGHT CELEBRATING WHO KNOWING WE MAY EVEN ENCOUNTER THE SPIRIT OF THE NIGHT
THAT'S REALLY EXCITING WHO IS THIS "SPIRIT" ?
IT'S A LONG STORY BUT THE NAME SOUNDS GOOD DOESN'T IT
MEANWHILE MIMI LOOKS YET AGAIN AT THE PICTURE OF HER SAILOR AND AN UNCONTROLLABLE TEAR MOVES SLOWLY DOWN HER FACE
THE

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HM 9/89

HEAVY METAL's

first graphic novel in ten years....

THE VENUS INTERFACE

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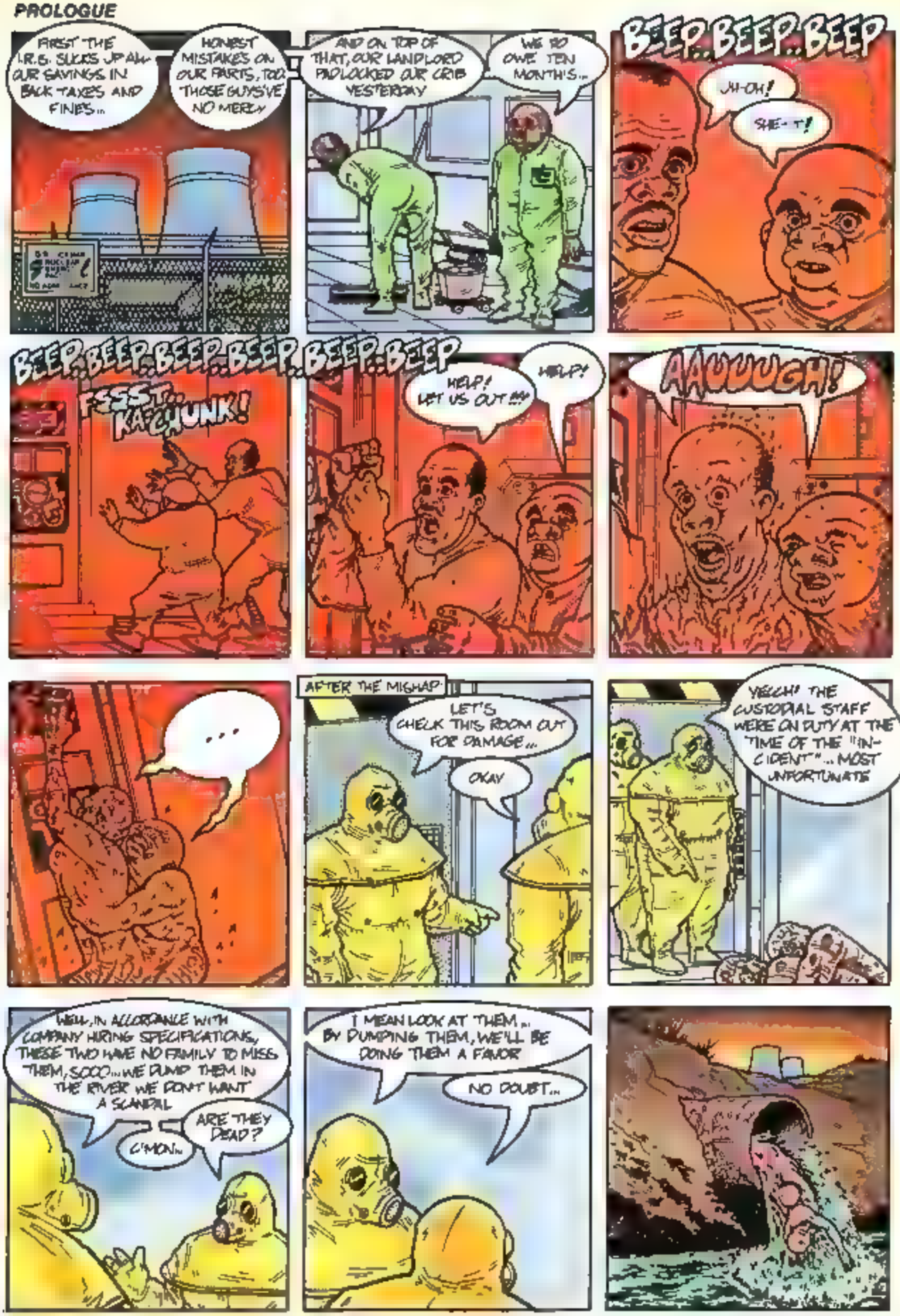
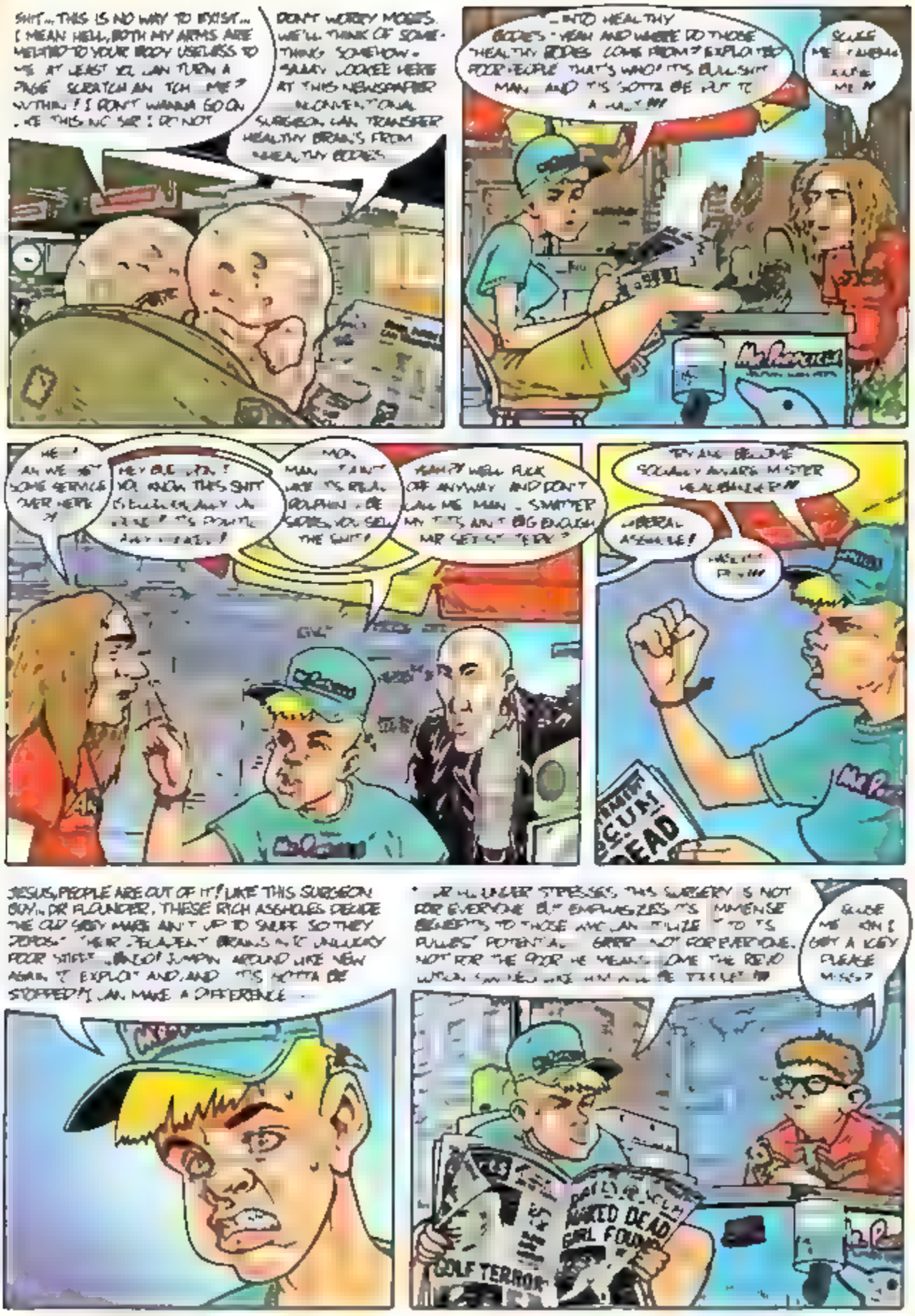
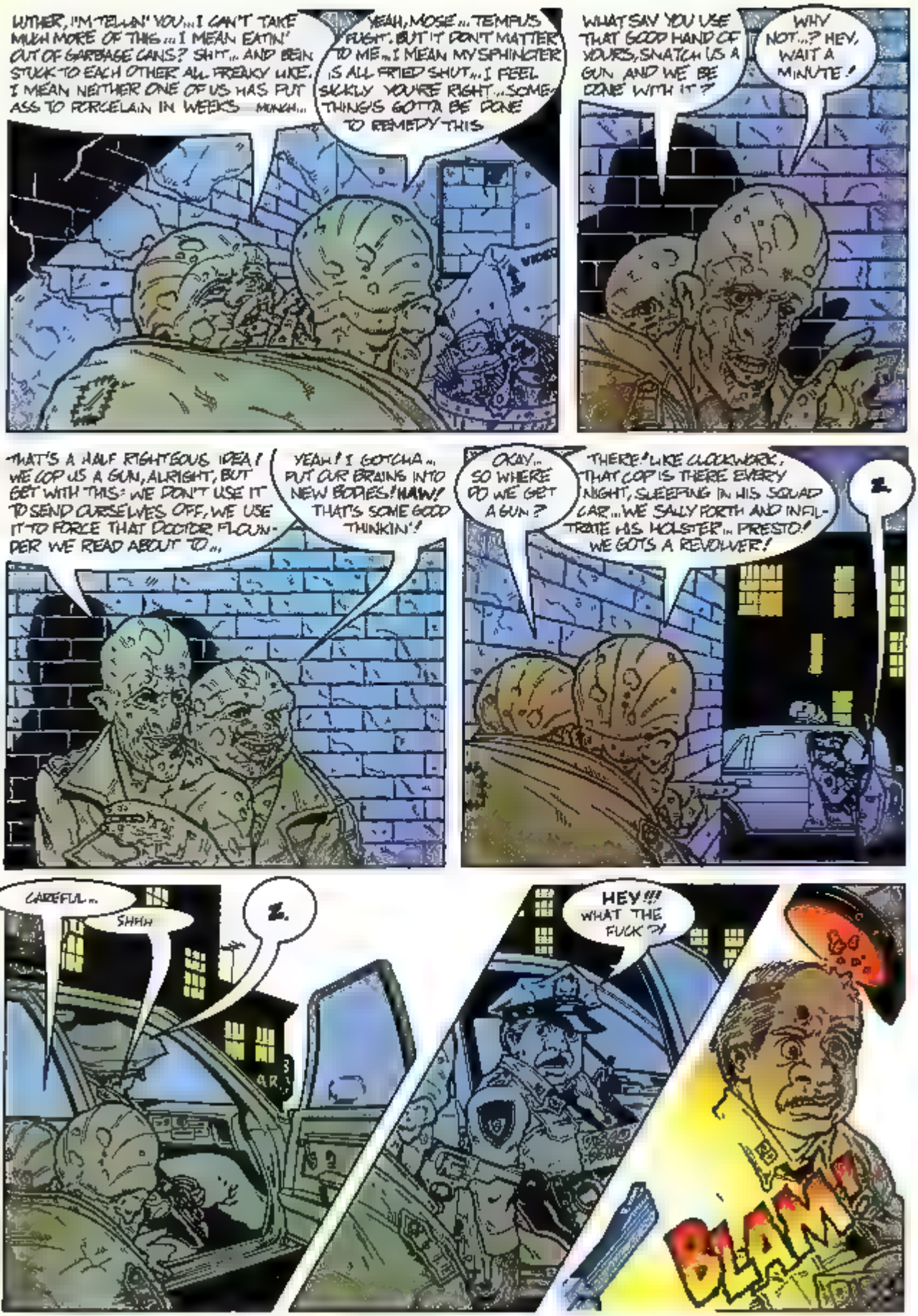
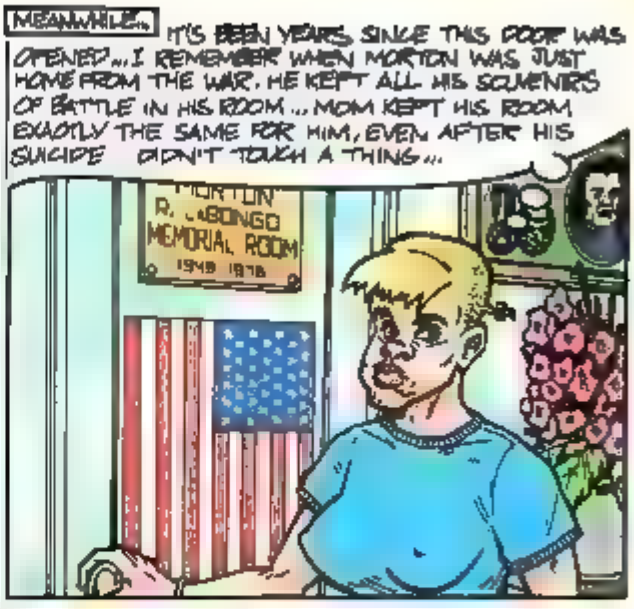

PROLOGUE
FIRST THE I.R.S. SUCKS UP ALL OUR SAVINGS IN BACK TAXES AND FINES...
HONEST MISTAKES ON OUR PARTS, TOO. THOSE GUYS'VE NO MERCY
AND ON TOP OF THAT, OUR LANDLORD PADLOCKED OUR CRIB YESTERDAY
WE DO OWE TEN MONTH'S...
BEEP..BEEP..BEEP
JU-JOH!
SHE-IT!
BEEP..BEEP..BEEP..BEEP..BEEP..BEEP
FSSST.. KA'CHUNK!
HELP! LET US OUT!!!
HELP!
AAUUUGH!
...
AFTER THE MISHAP
LET'S CHECK THIS ROOM OUT FOR DAMAGE...
OKAY
YECCH! THE CUSTODIAL STAFF WERE ON DUTY AT THE TIME OF THE "IN-CIDENT"... MOST UNFORTUNATE
WELL, IN ALLORDANCE WITH COMPANY HIRING SPECIFICATIONS, THESE TWO HAVE NO FAMILY TO MISS THEM, SOOO... WE DUMP THEM IN THE RIVER WE DON'T WANT A SCANDAL
C'MON...
ARE THEY DEAD?
I MEAN LOOK AT THEM... BY DUMPING THEM, WE'LL BE DOING THEM A FAVOR
NO DOUBT...

UH-OH..
-UH-OH?
DOUBLE UH-OH!
©1987
OH MAN..THIS IS WHACK! LOOK AT US..WE'RE MELTED TOGETHER!! I DON'T WANT TO GET A LOOK IN A MIRROR,BOY, 'M TELLIN' YOU!
PLUS WE'RE NAKED!.. SHIT!
HEY MISTER..
YIKES!
WELL, WE GOT US A COAT, ANYWAY
YEAH.. BUT WE MUST BE BAG NASTY ON THE EYES BY THE WAY THAT GUY BUGGED!
WELL..WE'RE HOMELESS FREAKS NOW, MOSES SO WHAT DO YOU SUGGEST WE DO?
I SUGGEST WE FIND SHELTER
GET OUT!!! YOU TWO(?)ARE FRIGHTENING THE OTHERS! TRY THE HOSPITAL .. OR ZOO!!!
FUCK YOU, MAAAN!
MEN
SHIT, MAN... FORCED INTO BEING PANHANDLERS. WE'VE REALLY COME DOWN IN THIS WORLD.
YEH.. NO ONE WILL EVEN STOP AND GIVE US NUTHIN', THEY TOO SCARED!
JESUS
AND ON TOP OF ALL THIS, WE'RE REDUCED TO LIVING IN A REFRIGERATOR BOX IN A DIRTY, STINKY ALLEY-WAY...


SHIT... THIS IS NO WAY TO EXIST... I MEAN HELL, BOTH MY ARMS ARE WELDED TO YOUR BODY USELESS TO ME AT LEAST YOU CAN TURN A PAGE SCRATCH AN ITCH ME? NUTHIN! I DON'T WANNA GO ON LIKE THIS NO SIR! I DO NOT
DON'T WORRY MOSES. WE'LL THINK OF SOMETHING SOMEHOW. HARRY LOOKEE HERE AT THIS NEWSPAPER ... NO-MEN-TO-MAL SURGEON CAN TRANSFER HEALTHY BRAINS FROM HEALTHY BODIES
... INTO HEALTHY BODIES. YEAH AND WHERE DO THOSE "HEALTHY BODIES" COME FROM? EXPLOITED POOR PEOPLE THAT'S WHO! IT'S BULLSHIT MAN AND IT'S GOTTA BE PUT TO A HALT!!!
SCUSE ME I WANNA EAT ME N
HEY! AIN'T WE GOT SOME SERVICE OVER HERE?
HEY BUD LISTEN! YOU KNOW THIS SHIT IS BULLSHIT, ANY JERK WITH A BRAIN KNOWS IT'S POINTLESS AND HARMFUL!
NOT MAN I AIN'T LIKE IT'S REAL DOLPHIN OR SEAL BODIES YOU SELL THE SHIT!
HUMPH WELL FUCK OFF ANYWAY AND DON'T CALL ME MAN - SMITTER MY TITS AIN'T BIG ENOUGH MR GET-UP "TERP"
TO ALL BELIEVE SQUEAKY ANARCHIST MASTER HEALTHMAKER!!!
LIBERAL ASSHOLE!
MR P...
SCUM DEAD
JESUS, PEOPLE ARE OUT OF IT! LIKE THIS SURGEON GUY... DR FLOUNDER. THESE RICH ASSHOLES DESERVE THE OLD SHIT MAKE AIN'T UP TO SNUFF SO THEY DESPOIL THEIR DELAPIDATED BRAINS WITH UNLUCKY POOR STIFFS' BRAINS AND JUMPIN AROUND LIKE NEW AGAIN. IT EXPLOITS AND AND IT'S GOTTA BE STOPPED!! I'LL MAKE A DIFFERENCE...
"... IN HIS UNDER STATEMENT, THIS SURGERY IS NOT FOR EVERYONE BUT EMPHASIZES IT'S IMMENSE BENEFITS TO THOSE WHO CAN UTILIZE IT TO IT'S FULLEST POTENTIAL. GREED NOT FOR EVERYONE. NOT FOR THE POOR HE MEANS COME THE REICH WITH CAN NEED HIM A NEW TESTICLE!!!"
SCUSE ME MAN I DIDN'T HAVE A KEY PLEASE MISS?
WICKED DEAD GIRL FOUND
GOLF TERROR

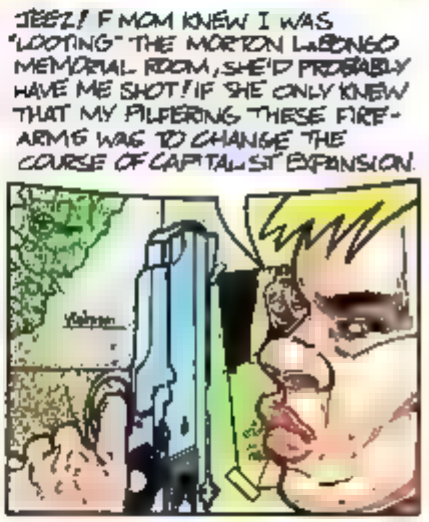

LUTHER, I'M TELLIN' YOU... I CAN'T TAKE MUCH MORE OF THIS... I MEAN EATIN' OUT OF GARBAGE CANS? SHIT... AND BEIN STUCK TO EACH OTHER ALL FREAKY LIKE. I MEAN NEITHER ONE OF US HAS PUT ASS TO PORCELAIN IN WEEKS... MUNCH...
YEAH, MOSE... TEMPUS FUGIT. BUT IT DON'T MATTER TO ME... I MEAN MY SPHINCTER IS ALL FRIED SHUT... I FEEL SICKLY YOU'RE RIGHT... SOME THINGS GOTTA BE DONE TO REMEDY THIS
WHAT SAY YOU USE THAT GOOD HAND OF YOURS, SNATCH US A GUN AND WE BE DONE WITH IT?
WHY NOT...? HEY, WAIT A MINUTE!
"THAT'S A HALF RIGHTEOUS IDEA! WE COP US A GUN, ALRIGHT, BUT GET WITH THIS: WE DON'T USE IT TO SEND OURSELVES OFF, WE USE IT TO FORCE THAT DOCTOR FLOUNDER WE READ ABOUT TO...
YEAH! I GOTCHA... PUT OUR BRAINS INTO NEW BODIES! HAW! THAT'S SOME GOOD THINKIN'!
OKAY... SO WHERE DO WE GET A GUN?
THERE! LIKE CLOCKWORK, THAT COP IS THERE EVERY NIGHT, SLEEPING IN HIS SQUAD CAR... WE SALLY FORTH AND INFILTRATE HIS HOLSTER... PRESTO! WE GOTS A REVOLVER!
Z.
CAREFUL...
SHHH
Z.
HEY!!! WHAT THE FUCK?!
BLAM!

SHIT, MAAAN! YOU KILLED A COP! WE N BIG TROUBLE NOW!
I KNOW I KNOW! IT WAS AN ACCIDENT! I GOT SCARED! WHAT DO WE DO?
EXACTLY WHAT WE WAS PLANNING ON... ONLY MORE SO! WE'RE FUGITIVES FROM THE LAW!


MEANWHILE...
IT'S BEEN YEARS SINCE THIS DOOR WAS OPENED... I REMEMBER WHEN MORTON WAS JUST HOME FROM THE WAR. HE KEPT ALL HIS SOUVENIRS OF BATTLE IN HIS ROOM... MOM KEPT HIS ROOM EXACTLY THE SAME FOR HIM, EVEN AFTER HIS SUICIDE DIDN'T TOUCH A THING...
MORTON R. LaBONGO MEMORIAL ROOM
1949 1978

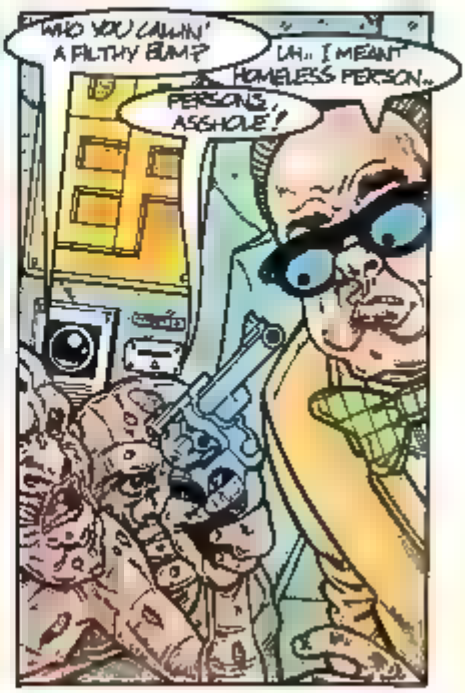
YEEEEESH! I THINK MOM OVERDID THE KEEPING THINGS AS THEY WERE ROUTINE!

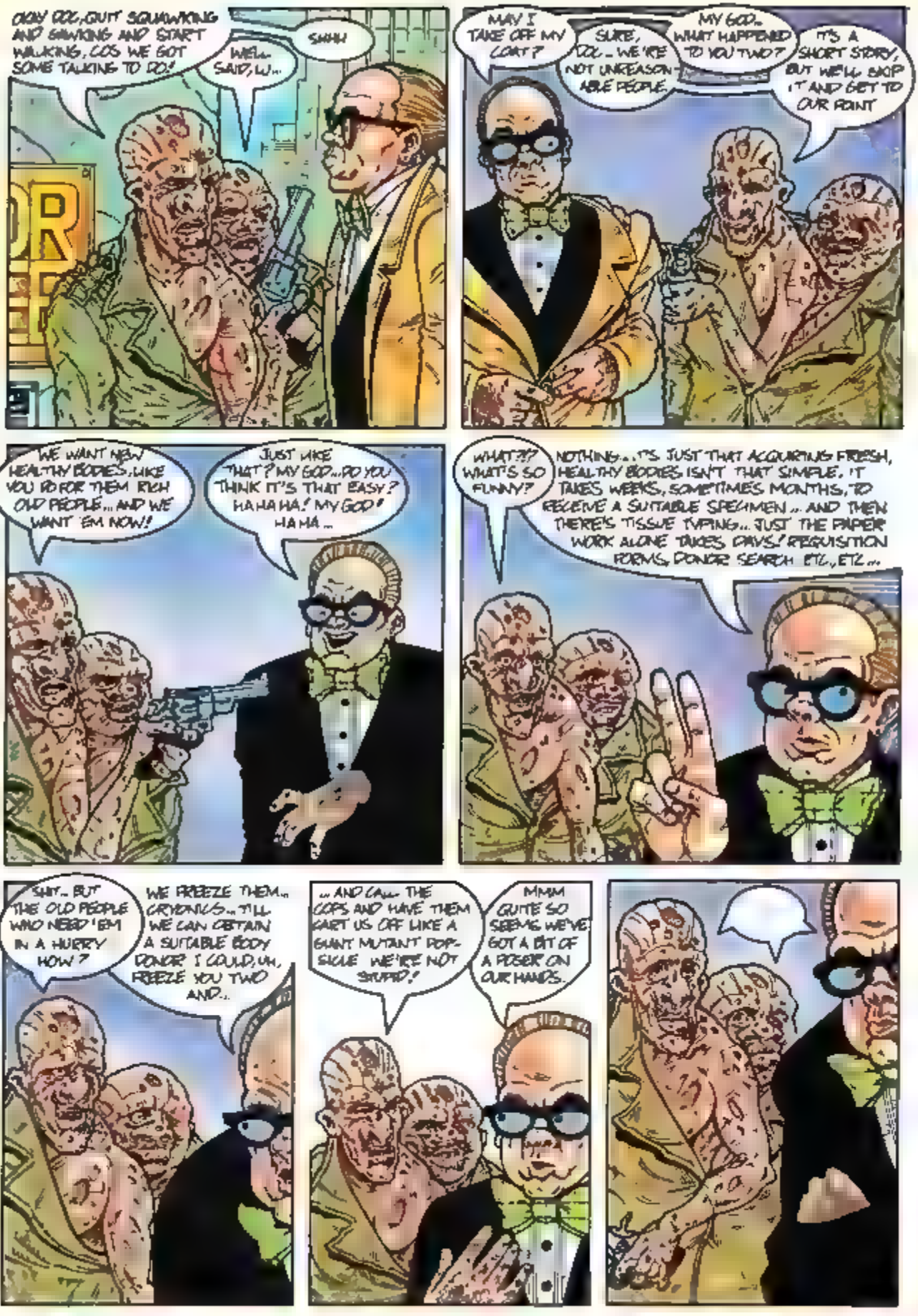
SORRY MORT, BUT I NEED THIS MORE THAN YOU DO...
LOUELLA!!! WHAT'RE YOU DOING?
NOTHING, MA!

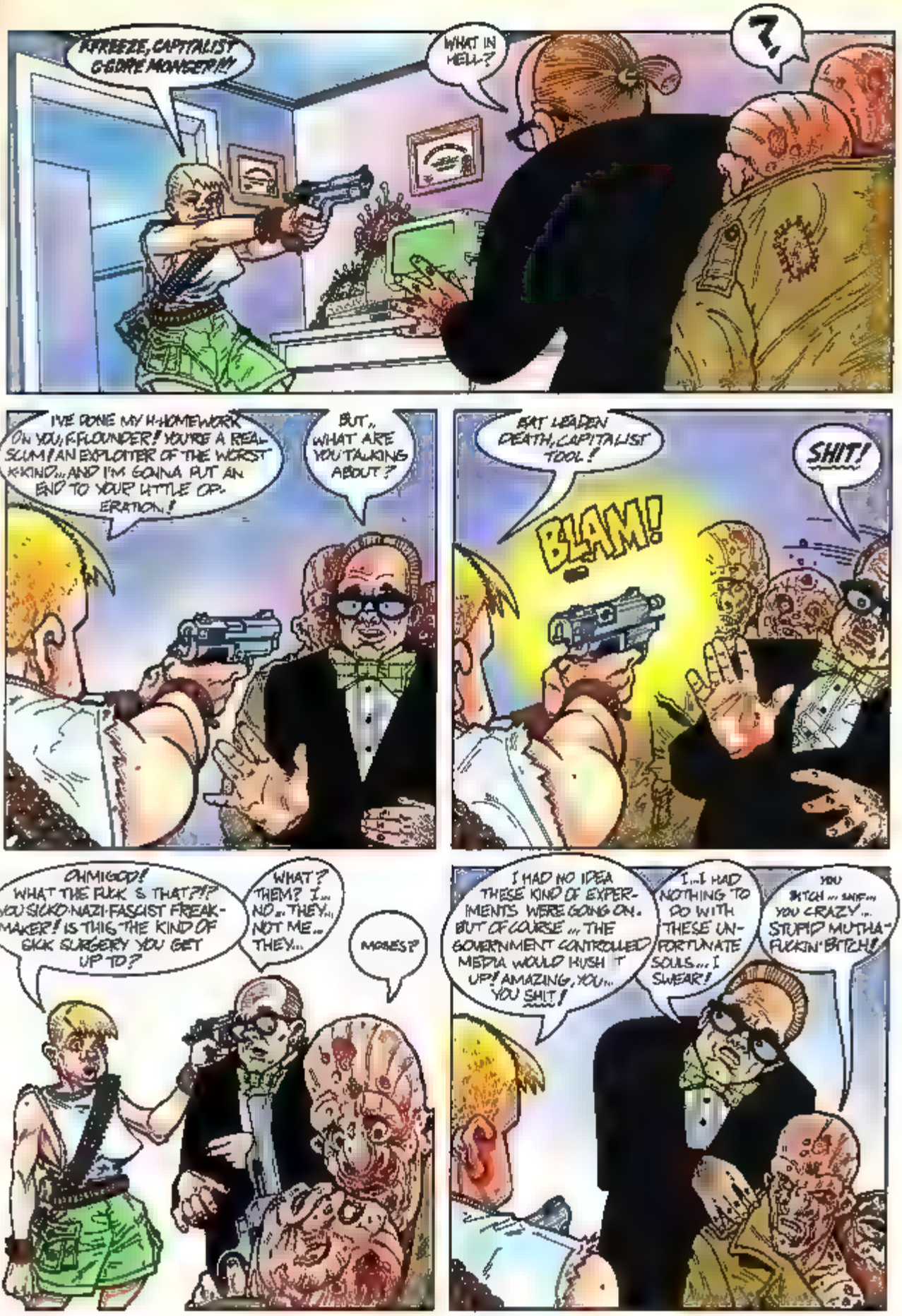

JEEZ! IF MOM KNEW I WAS "LOOTING" THE MORTON LaBONGO MEMORIAL ROOM, SHE'D PROBABLY HAVE ME SHOT! IF SHE ONLY KNEW THAT MY PILFERING THESE FIREARMS WAS TO CHANGE THE COURSE OF CAPITALIST EXPANSION.

WELL HERE IT IS... DR EMIL FLOUNDER'S CLINIC OF CRANIO-BRAINO YOUTH RESUSCITATIVE SURGERY... WE'VE GOTTA SIT STILL AND LAY IN WAITING...
YEAH...
DR. EF

MORNING...
HERE HE COMES...
UGH!!! A FILTHY BUM IS BLOCKING MY PRIVATE ENTRANCE!


WHO YOU CALLIN' A FILTHY BUM?
UH... I MEANT HOMELESS PERSON...
PERSONS, ASSHOLE!


OKAY OO, QUIT SQUAWKING AND SHRIKING AND START WALKING, COS WE GOT SOME TALKING TO DO!
SHHH!
WELL... SAID, U...
MAY I TAKE OFF MY COAT?
SURE, OO... WE'RE NOT UNREASONABLE PEOPLE.
MY GOD... WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU TWO?
IT'S A SHORT STORY, BUT WE'LL SKIP IT AND GET TO OUR POINT
WE WANT NEW HEALTHY BODIES, LIKE YOU PO FOR THEM RICH OLD PEOPLE... AND WE WANT 'EM NOW!
JUST LIKE THAT? MY GOD... PO YOU THINK IT'S THAT EASY? HA HA HA! MY GOD! HA HA...
WHAT?!? WHAT'S SO FUNNY?
NOTHING... IT'S JUST THAT ACQUIRING FRESH, HEALTHY BODIES ISN'T THAT SIMPLE. IT TAKES WEEKS, SOMETIMES MONTHS, TO RECEIVE A SUITABLE SPECIMEN... AND THEN THERE'S TISSUE TYPING... JUST THE PAPER WORK ALONE TAKES DAYS! REQUISITION FORMS, DONOR SEARCH ETC., ETC...
SHIT... BUT THE OLD PEOPLE WHO NEED 'EM IN A HURRY HOW?
WE FREEZE THEM... CRYONICS... TILL WE CAN OBTAIN A SUITABLE BODY DONOR! I COULD, UH, FREEZE YOU TWO AND...
... AND CALL THE COPS AND HAVE THEM CART US OFF LIKE A GIANT MUTANT POP-SICLE! WE'RE NOT STUPID!
MMM QUITE SO SEEING WE'VE GOT A BIT OF A POSER ON OUR HANDS.


FREEZE, CAPITALIST GORE MONGER!!!
WHAT IN HELL-?
?!
I'VE DONE MY HOMEWORK ON YOU, F-FLOUNDER! YOU'RE A REAL SCUM! AN EXPLOITER OF THE WORST KIND... AND I'M GONNA PUT AN END TO YOUR LITTLE OPERATION!
BUT... WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
EAT LEADEN DEATH, CAPITALIST TOOL!
BLAM!
SHIT!
OHMIGOD! WHAT THE FUCK IS THAT?!? YOU SICKO-NAZI-FASCIST FREAK-MAKER! IS THIS THE KIND OF GROSS SURGERY YOU GET UP TO?
WHAT? THEM? I... NO... THEY... NOT ME... THEY...
MORE?
I HAD NO IDEA THESE KIND OF EXPERIMENTS WERE GOING ON. BUT OF COURSE... THE GOVERNMENT CONTROLLED MEDIA WOULD HUSH IT UP! AMAZING, YOU... YOU SHIT!
I...I HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THESE UNFORTUNATE SOULS... I SWEAR!
YOU BITCH... SNIF... YOU CRAZY... STUPID MUTHA-FUCKIN' BITCH!

CRAZY BITCH!
SWEET JESUS!
BLAM!
No..No..No...
BLAM! BLAM! BLAM!
DR FLOUNDER?
WELL, THAT DOES IT... YOU KILLED MY FRIEND... YOU KILLED MY ONLY HOPE... I'M SORRY...
THUD!
I DIDN'T WANT TO BE A KILLER
BLAM! BLAM! BLAM! BLAM!
OH, MOSES, MY MAN... YOU WERE RIGHT...
.. WE SHOULDA JUST OFFED OURSELVES RIGHT AWAY... WELL, I'LL SEE YOU ON THE OTHER SIDE ..
KLIK!
.. DAMN..
oh shit!!

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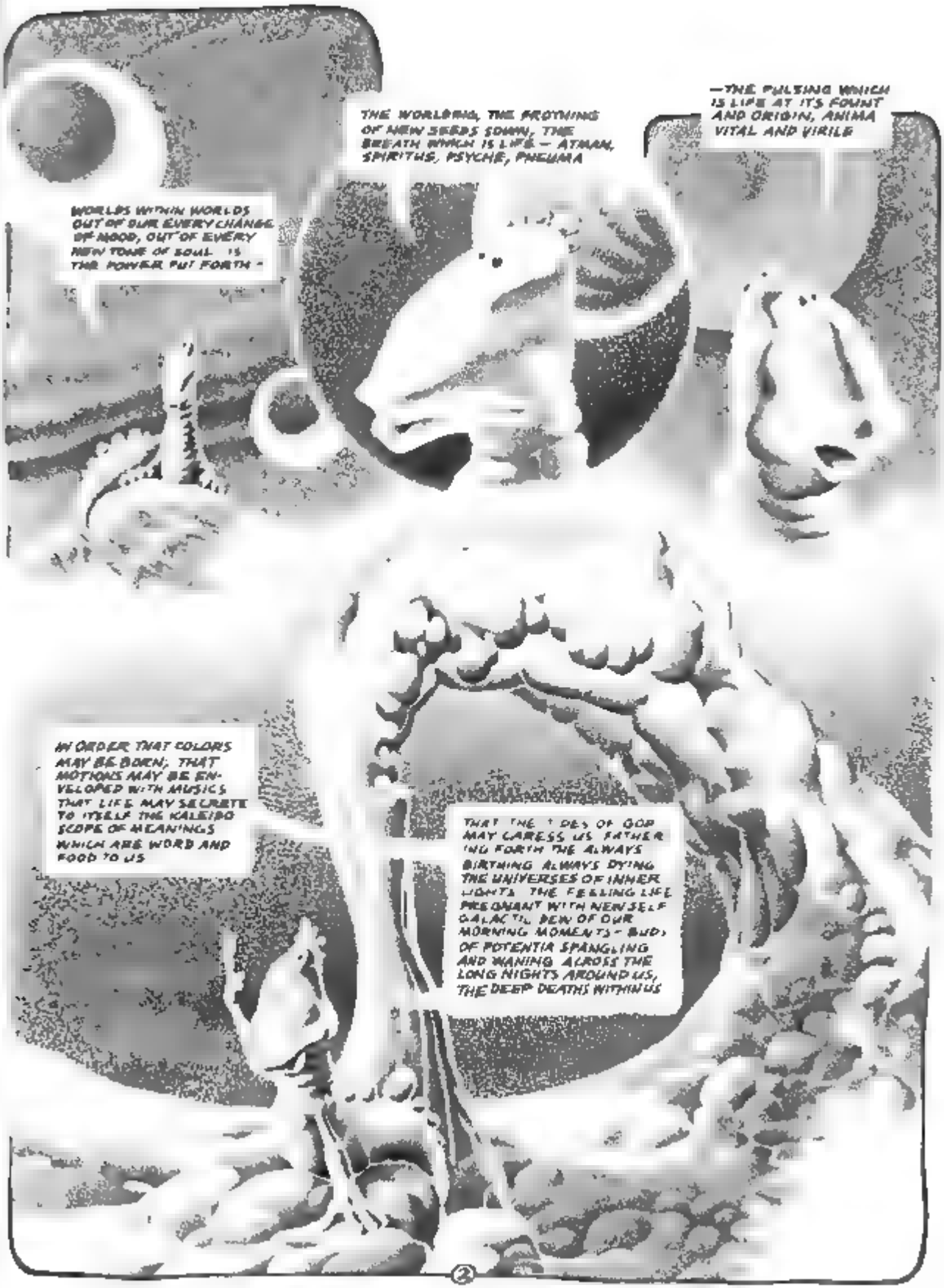
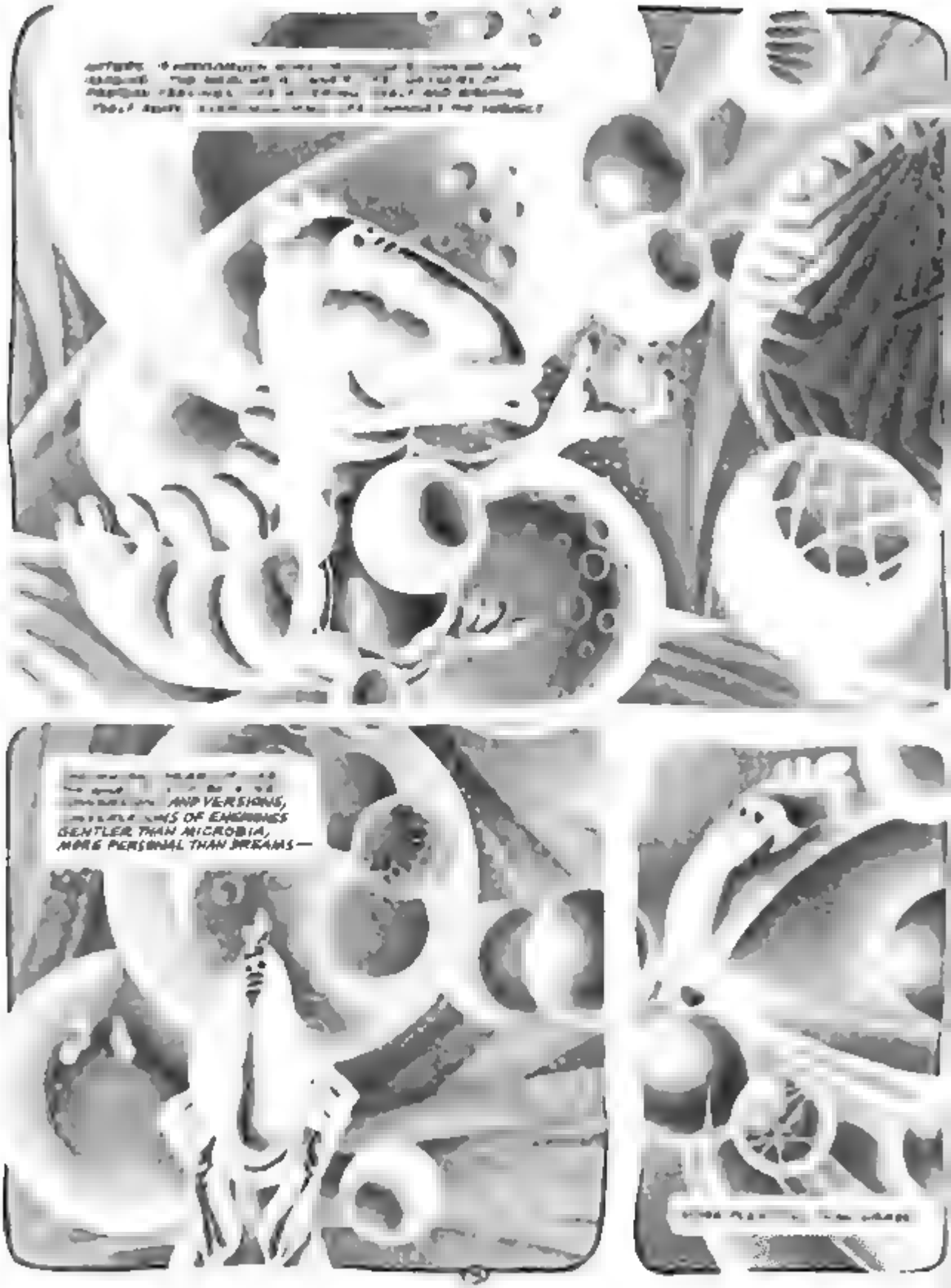
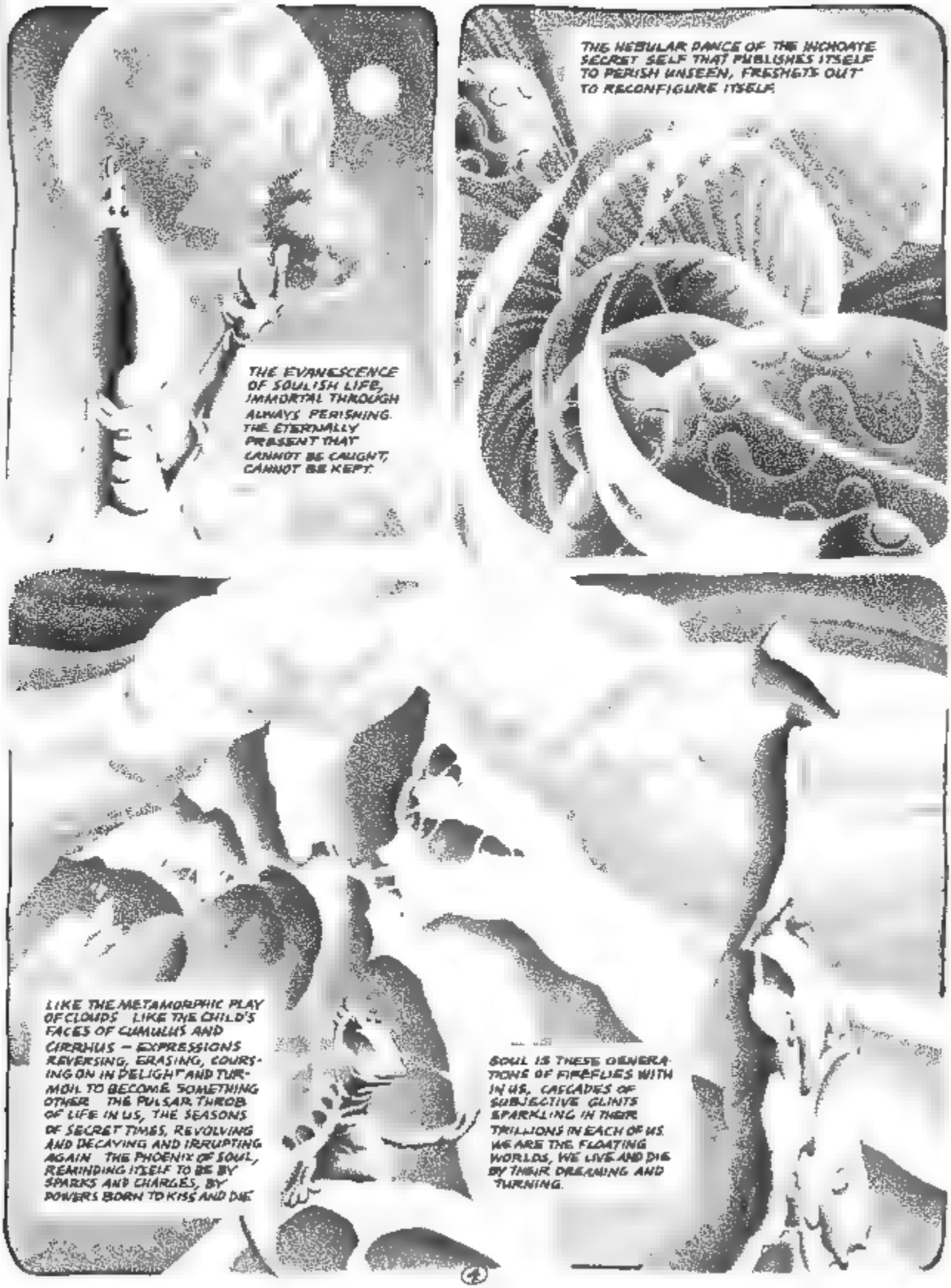
EVERY ACHE AND DISAPPOINTMENT
EVERY PAIN AND TEAR IN US
IS THE DYING OF A WORLD
WORLDS DIE SO SUBTLY THAT CONSCIOUSNESS IS NOT DISTURBED. ONLY IN OUR FEELINGS IS THERE TURBULENCE
WE GRIEVE AND LIVE ON AND KNOW NOT WHY SADNESS AND JOY DESCEND UPON US

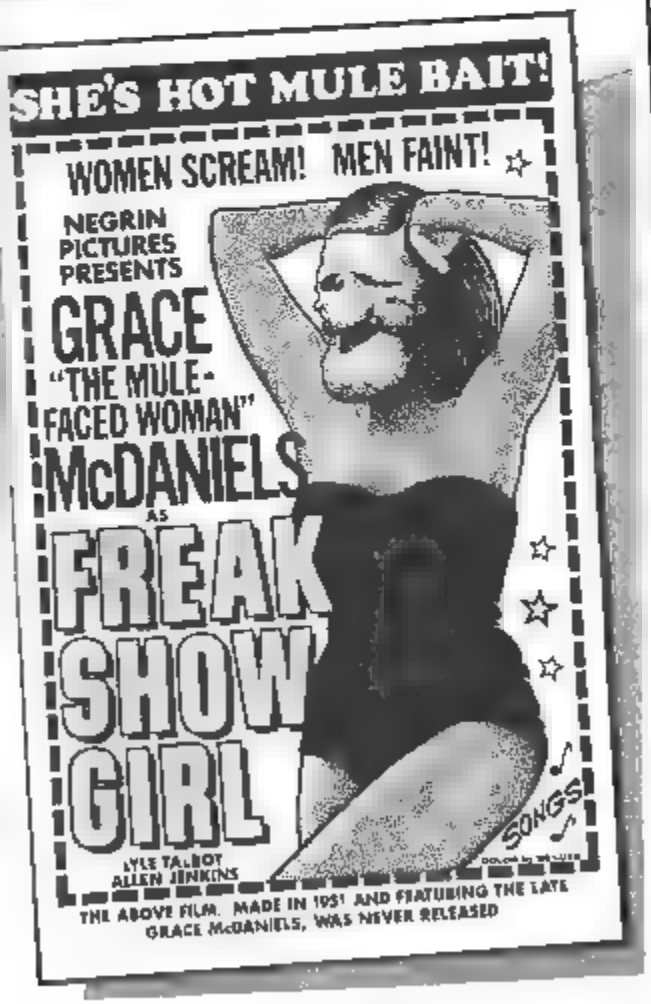

WORLDS WITHIN WORLDS OUT OF OUR EVERY CHANGE OF MOOD, OUT OF EVERY NEW TONE OF SOUL IS THE POWER PUT FORTH -
THE WORLDING, THE FROTHING OF NEW SEEDS SOWN, THE BREATH WHICH IS LIFE — ATMAN, SPIRITUS, PSYCHE, PNEUMA
—THE PULSING WHICH IS LIFE AT ITS FOUNT AND ORIGIN, ANIMA VITAL AND VIRILE
IN ORDER THAT COLORS MAY BE BORN; THAT MOTIONS MAY BE ENVELOPED WITH MUSICS THAT LIFE MAY SECRETE TO ITSELF THE KALEIDOSCOPE OF MEANINGS WHICH ARE WORD AND FOOD TO US
THAT THE TIDES OF GOD MAY CARESS US, FATHERING FORTH THE ALWAYS BIRTHING ALWAYS DYING THE UNIVERSES OF INNER LIGHTS THE FEELING LIFE PREGNANT WITH NEW SELF GALACTIC DEW OF OUR MORNING MOMENTS - BUDS OF POTENTIA SPANGLING AND WANING ACROSS THE LONG NIGHTS AROUND US, THE DEEP DEATHS WITHIN US


AND VERSIONS,
GENTLER THAN MICROBIA,
MORE PERSONAL THAN DREAMS—


THE EVANESCENCE OF SOULISH LIFE, IMMORTAL THROUGH ALWAYS PERISHING. THE ETERNALLY PRESENT THAT CANNOT BE CAUGHT, CANNOT BE KEPT.
THE NEBULAR DANCE OF THE NICHOATE SECRET SELF THAT PUBLISHES ITSELF TO PERISH UNSEEN, FRESHETS OUT TO RECONFIGURE ITSELF.
LIKE THE METAMORPHIC PLAY OF CLOUDS LIKE THE CHILD'S FACES OF CUMULUS AND CIRRHUS — EXPRESSIONS REVERSING, ERASING, COURSING ON IN DELIGHT AND TURMOIL TO BECOME SOMETHING OTHER THE PULSAR THROB OF LIFE IN US, THE SEASONS OF SECRET TIMES, REVOLVING AND DECAYING AND IRRUPTING AGAIN THE PHOENIX OF SOUL, REMINDING ITSELF TO BE BY SPARKS AND CHARGES, BY POWERS BORN TO KISS AND DIE
SOUL IS THESE GENERATIONS OF FIREFLIES WITHIN US. CASCADES OF SUBJECTIVE GLINTS SPARKLING IN THEIR TRILLIONS IN EACH OF US. WE ARE THE FLOATING WORLDS, WE LIVE AND DIE BY THEIR DREAMING AND TURNING.

INTO THE SAME RIVER

FORGOTTEN F·I·L·M·S


SHE'S HOT MULE BAIT!
WOMEN SCREAM! MEN FAINT!
NEGRIN PICTURES PRESENTS
GRACE "THE MULE-FACED WOMAN" McDANIELS
AS
FREAK SHOW GIRL
LYLE TALBOT
ALLEN JENKINS
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BY DREW FRIEDMAN

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STRATOS 6

LOOK! THAT GUY OVER THERE IS MORENO, THE BOSS OF THIS AREA. THREE YEARS AGO HE WAS A PARTY. NOW HE'S POWERFUL
HE TAKES MONEY FROM ALL THE WOMEN WHO "WORK" AROUND HERE. BUT NOT FROM ME. HE RESPECTS ME. OF COURSE I HAVE TO "KEEP HIM COMPANY" EVERY NOW AND THEN
MAN, THE DOCTOR IS HERE. WELL, WELL
HEY! HE CAN FIND YOU A JOB! LET'S GO. I'LL TALK TO HIM ABOUT YOU, AND HE'LL FIND SOMETHING. I'M SURE YOU KNOW SO MANY THINGS. OKAY?
WELL, YES, BUT I DON'T KNOW
MAN, AN INTELLECTUAL! IF YOU'RE A FRIEND OF THE DOCTOR'S, THERE WILL BE SOMETHING FOR SURE. WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE, VLADI? TO PUNISH THOSE WHO DISOBEY? TO ELIMINATE PEOPLE WHO STAND IN MY WAY OR TO PROTECT OUR GIRLS?
WELL... I DON'T KNOW... TRUTH IS...
COME ON, MAN, LET'S GO! YOU'VE GOT NOTHING TO LOSE!
ARE YOU SURE? MAYBE ANOTHER DAY WOULD BE BETTER
HELLO, DOCTOR. HOW ARE YOU?
HELLO, MR. MORENO. WOULD LIKE YOU TO MEET VLADI. HE WAS AN ARCHITECT AND WOULD LIKE TO WORK WITH YOU.
OR MAYBE YOU WOULD LOOK TO COMICS FOR THOSE WITH, ERRR, MORE SOPHISTICATED TASTES? THINK THE BEST THING WOULD BE FOR YOU TO THINK IT OVER TONIGHT AND COME BACK IN THE MORNING AND TELL ME WHAT YOU WANT
YES... THINK... THAT WOULD BE BEST
YOU WERE GREAT! COLD, DISTANT. NO FAWNING. YOU REALLY IMPRESSED HIM. NOW WE'LL GO TO MY PLACE TO CELEBRATE!

DID YOU LIKE THE DINNER VLADI?
DELICIOUS. AND THE WINE. THREE YEARS SINCE I TASTED ANYTHING LIKE IT. AND I THINK THAT I'M SOMEWHAT TIPSY.
WELL, THEN, WE CAN MOVE ON TO DESSERT. DON'T YOU THINK? HOPE YOU'LL LIKE IT.
NO TANIA, IT'S YOU DON'T NEED TO DO IT. I PLEASE DON'T THINK THAT.
STOP THAT NON SENSE. COME I'VE GOT SOME THING TO SAY TO YOU.
YOU KNOW, VLADI, I FIND YOU VERY ATTRACTIVE AND SO NICE. I LIKE YOU A LOT AND I THINK I LOVE YOU A LITTLE BIT. I'M VERY HAPPY WE MET. WE COULD BE VERY HAPPY.
COMANE
WITH MONEY ON YOUR SIDE YOU WILL SOON BE AN IMPORTANT MAN. AND IF YOU DON'T WANT TO WORK I'LL EARN ENOUGH MONEY FOR BOTH OF US.
NO, TANIA, NONE OF THAT! YOU ARE VERY GOOD AND VERY BEAUTIFUL. I THINK THAT I TOO.
AHHH!

PIG!
BASTARD!
BASTARD!

Clic
TANIA TANIA!
Mmmmm WHAT'S THE MATTER?
SO?
IT'S NINE O'CLOCK
I'M LEAVING, TANIA. I'M NOT MADE TO LIVE HERE. I'M GOING BACK TO MY VILLAGE. COME WITH ME
LEAVE? WELL... WHY?
I'VE TOLD YOU ALREADY. I'M NO GOOD HERE, IN THIS SOCIETY. IT'S AGGRESSIVE, CRUEL, VIOLENT, I CAN'T TAKE IT
ARE YOU SURE YOU KNOW HOW TO FIND THAT KID?
YES! DON'T WORRY. AND ARE YOU SURE THAT WILL BE ENOUGH FOR THE WHOLE TRIP?
YES, MY LOVE, YES!
YOU'LL SEE... IT WILL BE WONDERFUL. THE WHOLE DAY WITHOUT DOING MUCH OF ANYTHING. TIME PASSES VERY SLOWLY. WITHOUT TENSIONS, WITHOUT VIOLENT EMOTIONS, WITHOUT OPPRESSION. NATURE ALL AROUND YOU. NO CARS, NO FACT. CROWDS. ALL IS PEACE AND SILENCE.
SHHH PEACE!

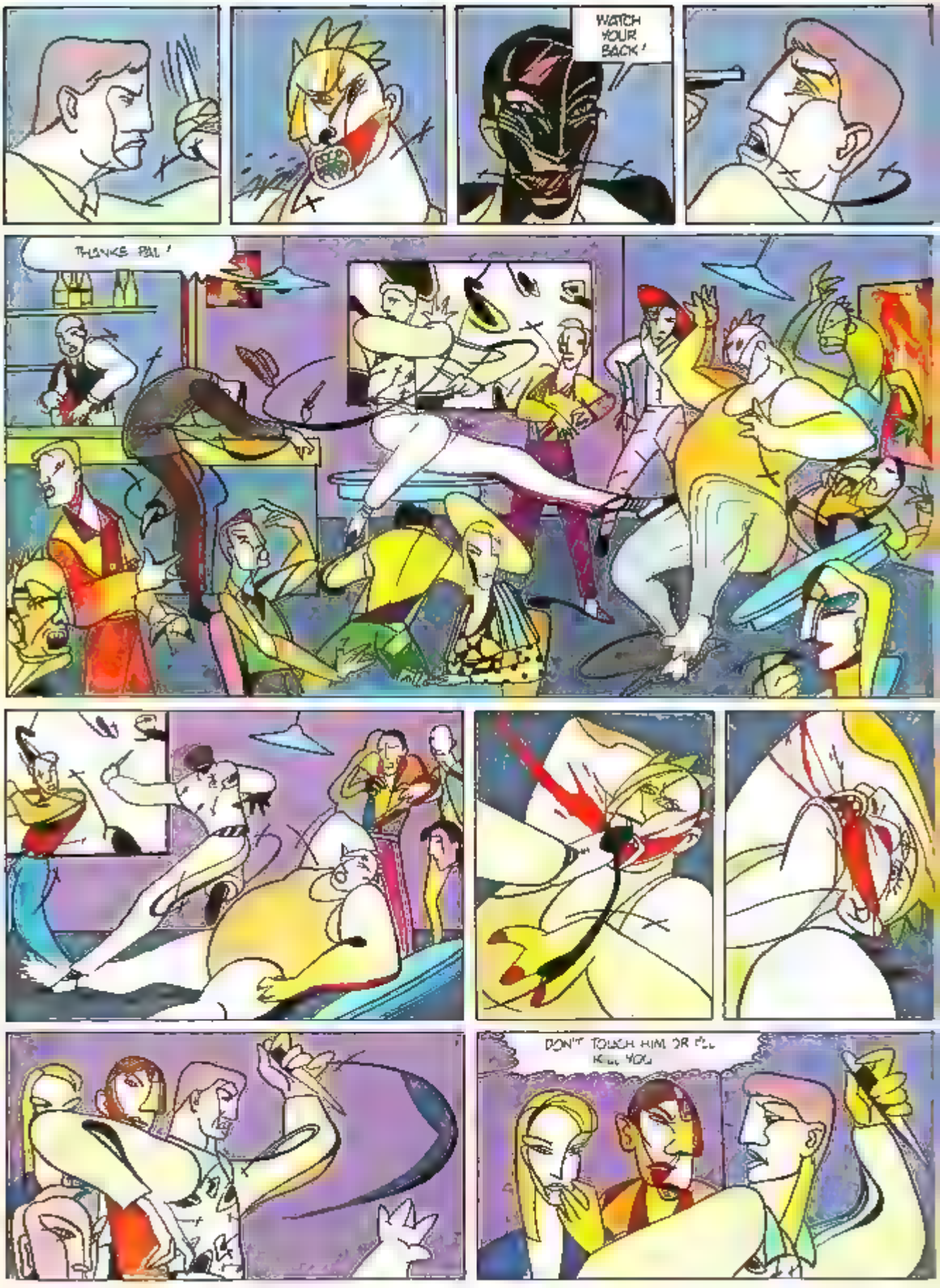
WELL, ALL IS READY. LET'S GO, TENIA!
VLAD! I... YOU SEE THINK THAT THAT I'M NOT COMING, VLAD
¡EH?
I'M SORRY, VLAD... THINK... ONE, YOU & I... WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO LIVE IN THAT "GARDEN OF EDEN" YOU DESCRIBED. NEED ALL THOSE THINGS THAT ARE MISSING OVER THERE... THINK IT WOULD BE A MISTAKE... DO YOU UNDERSTAND?
UNDERSTAND. AND ALSO KNOW THAT I COULDN'T SURVIVE HERE, TENIA... I LOVE YOU, BUT
IF WE KEEP ON TALKING IT WILL JUST BE MORE PAINFUL
THE END

FIREBRAND

HERIKBERTO

IT WAS DURING THE FIESTA, ON SATURDAY, THAT THE DISASTER TOOK PLACE ! EVERYBODY WAS TALKING ABOUT IT, EVERYBODY WAS WORRIED.
THE MAFIA CONTROLS EVERY-THING!
I KNOW THEY'RE AFTER ME BUT WHAT CAN I DO.
AH TO DIE
THEY COULD'VE DONE IT PERFECTLY, BUT THEY CHOSE NOT TO. SHIT!

NOT EVEN A MASTER STROKE COULD AVOID THE BULL'S AGONY EVEN MANOLETE COULDN'T DO THAT'
WHATEVER THE MAFIA WANTS THE MAFIA GETS! DON'T YOU AGREE?
DON'T PUT WORDS IN MY MOUTH!
YOU KNOW TOO MUCH ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED SATURDAY WHO TELLS YOU THESE THINGS?
WE'LL SEE HOW MUCH IT WILL HELP YOU
HEY GUYS, IF YOU WANT TO PARTY COME OVER TO MY LOFT YOU CAN POSE FOR ME
THINGS ARE STARTING TO MOVE!
AND YOU'D BETTER SHUT UP

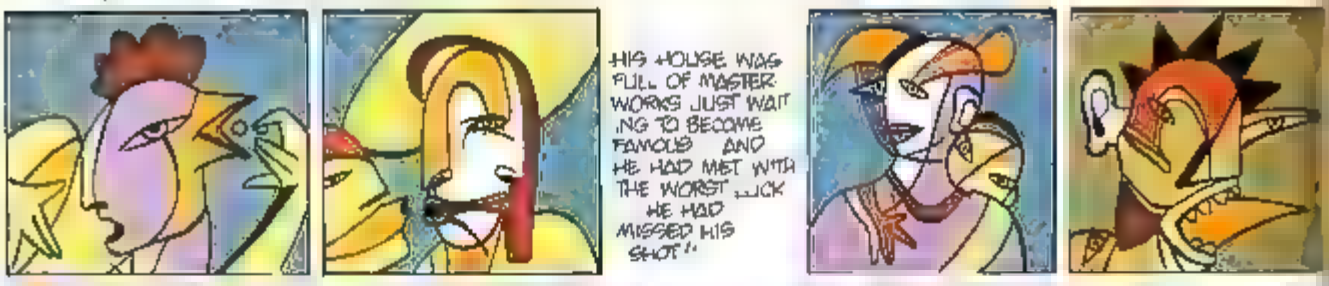

WATCH YOUR BACK!
THANKS PAL!
DON'T TOUCH HIM OR I'LL KILL YOU

LET ME THANK YOU, MY FRIEND!
I OWE YOU MY LIFE
CAREFUL
BANG!!
LET'S LEAVE THIS JOINT
SHIT
SONS OF BITCHES
HE WAS LOOKING FOR YOU. WHAT HAPPENED?
BAH

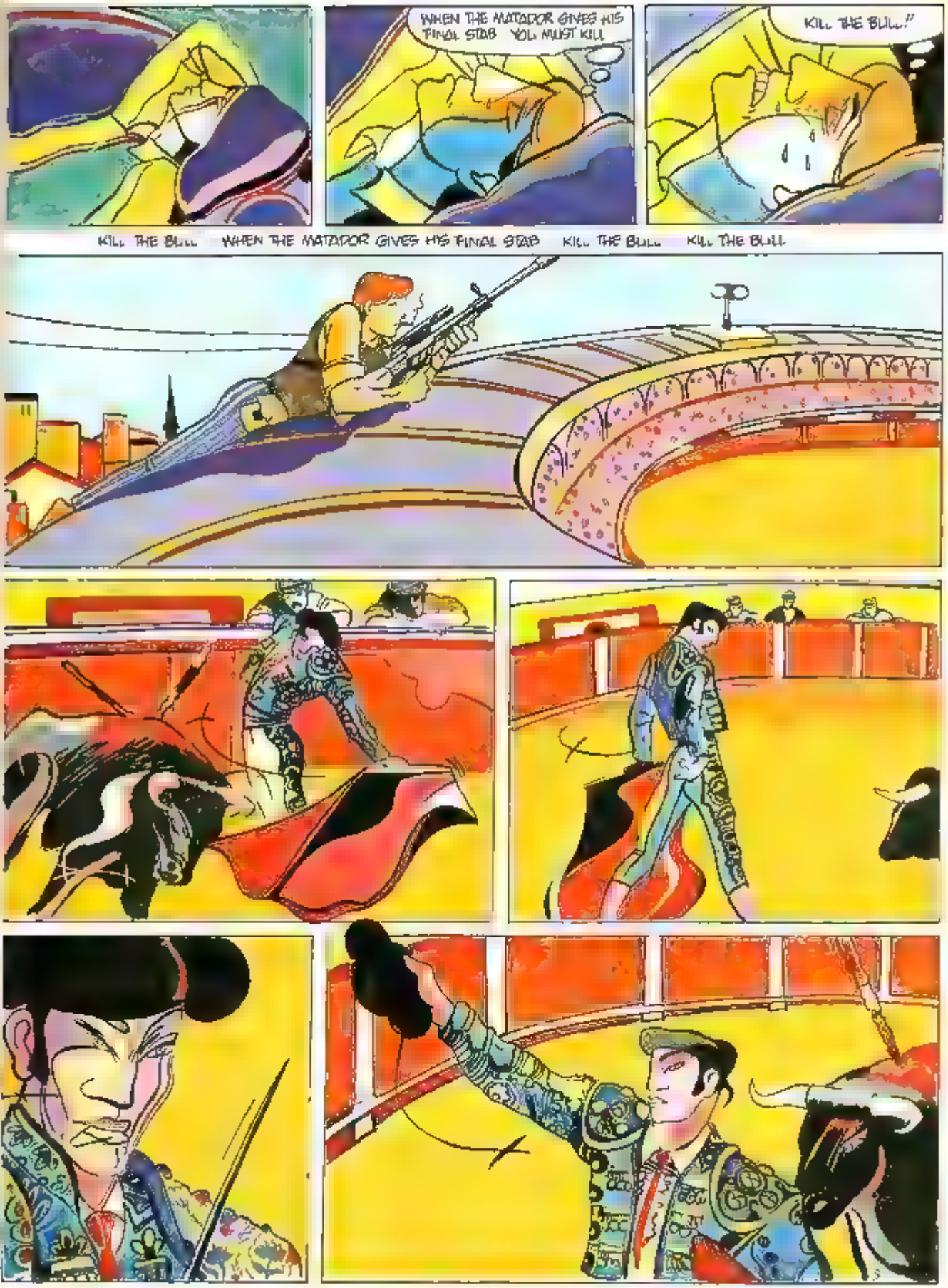
I'LL HAVE TO DISAPPEAR FOR A BIT I WAS A LITTLE TOO ZEALOUS LET'S GO TO MY PLACE
TO MY STUDIO. I'M A SCULPTOR I'LL TELL YOU ABOUT THIS WHEN WE GET THERE
YOU DON'T JUST LIKE DISASTERS, YOU'RE A SCULPTOR TOO WHAT A MULTIFACETED INDIVIDUAL
POOF I EARN MY LIVING EVEN THOUGH I CAN'T SELL A THING
WE'RE HERE
SHIT THIS IS GREAT MAN!

THE MAFIA HAS SWINDLED ME OUT I AIN'T SELL A THING EVERYTHING'S IN PILES
SHIT
AND THEY'VE ASKED YOU TO WORK FOR THEM, RIGHT?
YEAH' THEY ASKED ME TO DO THEM A LITTLE FAVOR AT THE PLAZA DE TOROS
IN THE PLAZA? YOU DO YOU MEAN TO SAY THAT WHAT HAPPENED?
THAT YOU WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR THAT MESS ON SATURDAY' THAT YOU'RE IN A TOUGH SPOT HA HA
YES YES ...CK THAT BITCH ABANDONED ME

I HAD MET THAT POOR MAN WHO HAD TURNED OUR WORLD UPSIDE DOWN. HIS DAYS WERE NUMBERED



I LEFT HIM ALONE. TREAM ING OF H S ARTWORK. ALL LOST BECA ISE OF A SIMPLE ERROR


WHEN THE MATADOR GIVES HIS FINAL STAB YOU MUST KILL
KILL THE BULL!"
KILL THE BULL WHEN THE MATADOR GIVES HIS FINAL STAB KILL THE BULL KILL THE BULL

THE END

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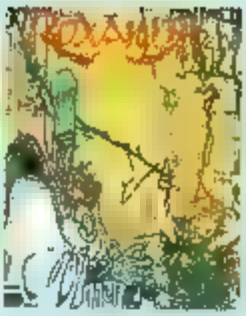

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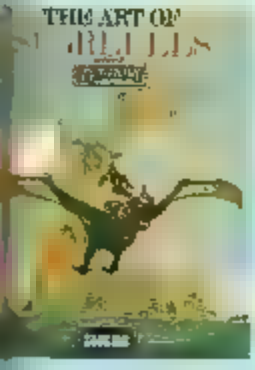

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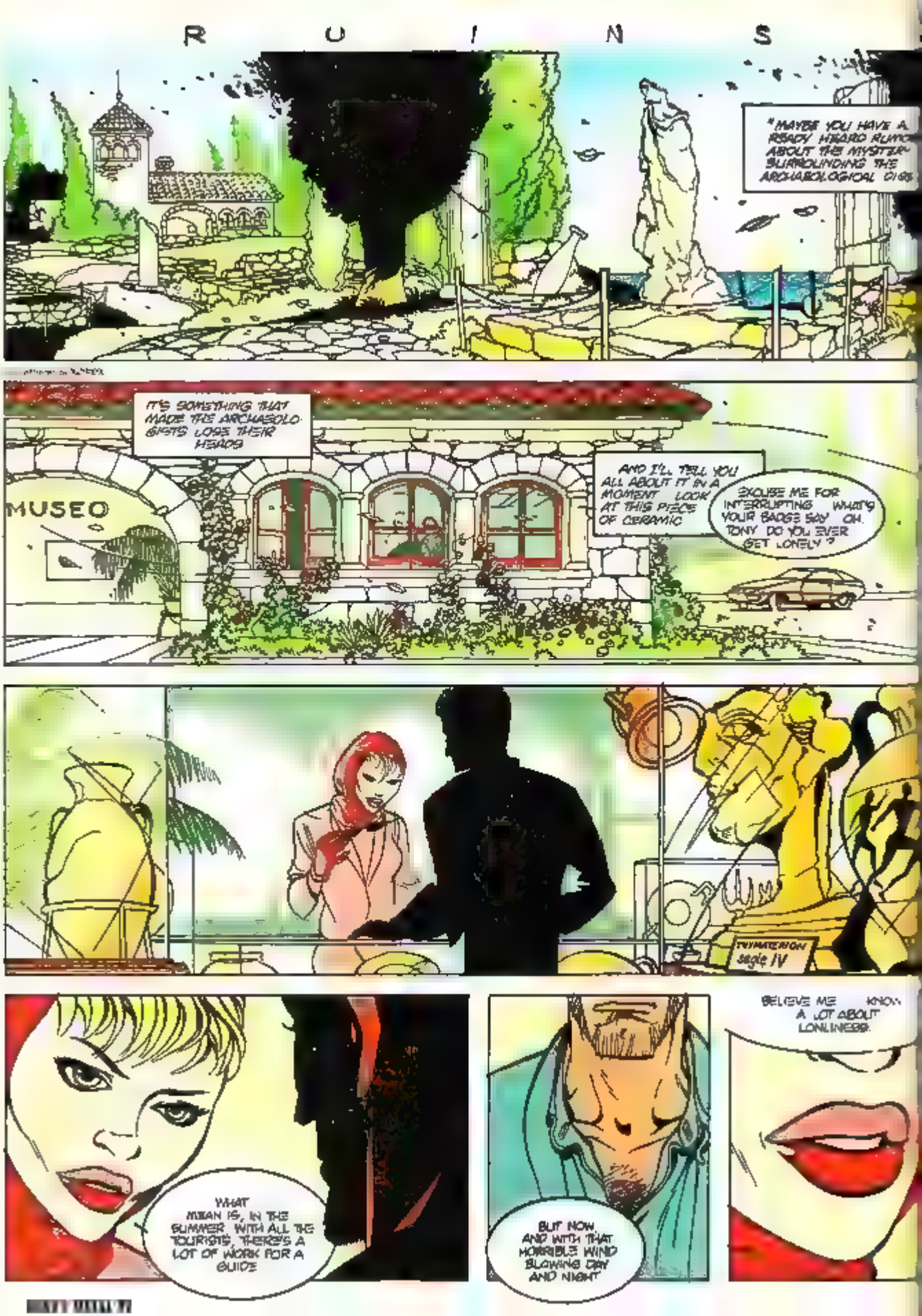
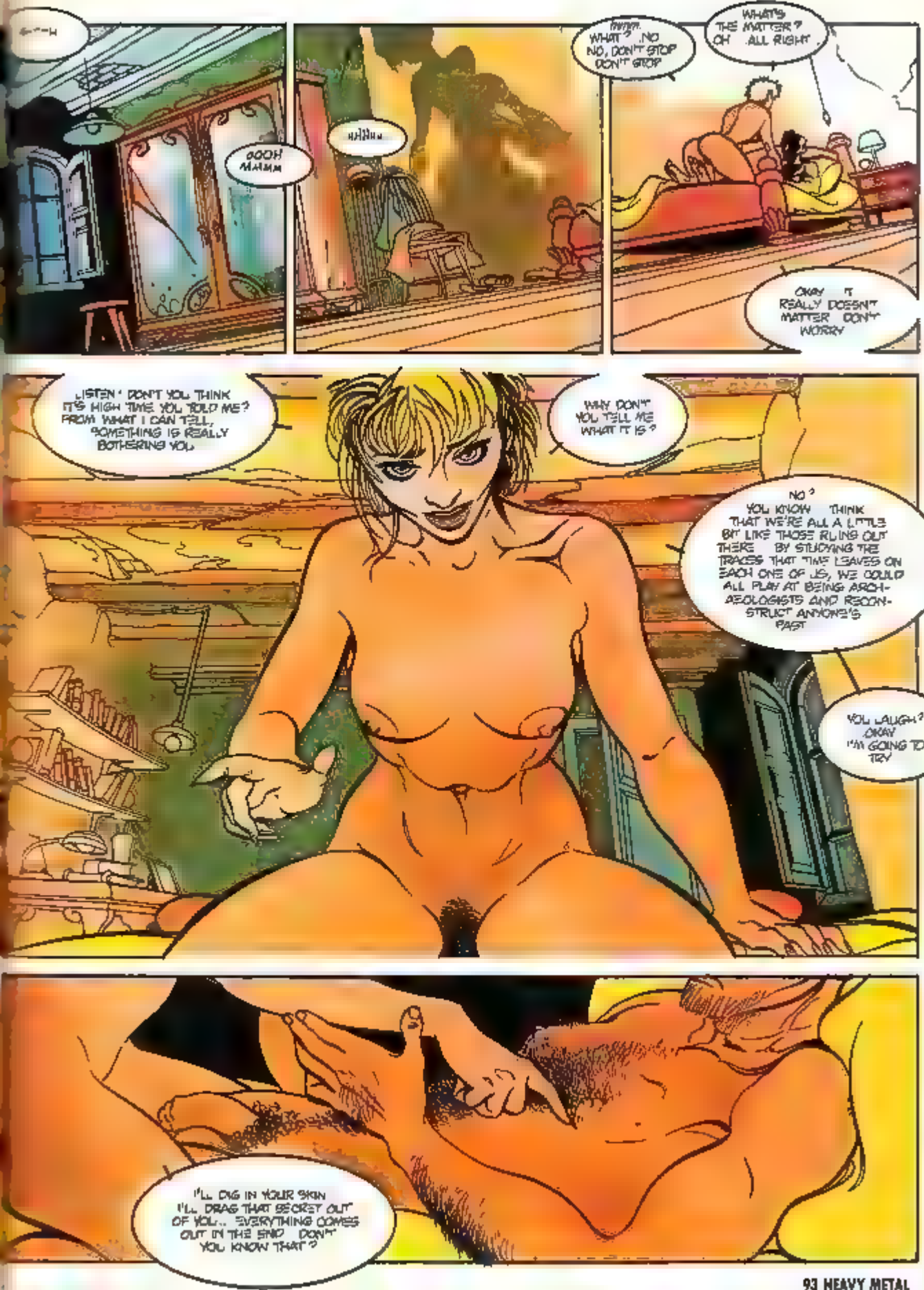
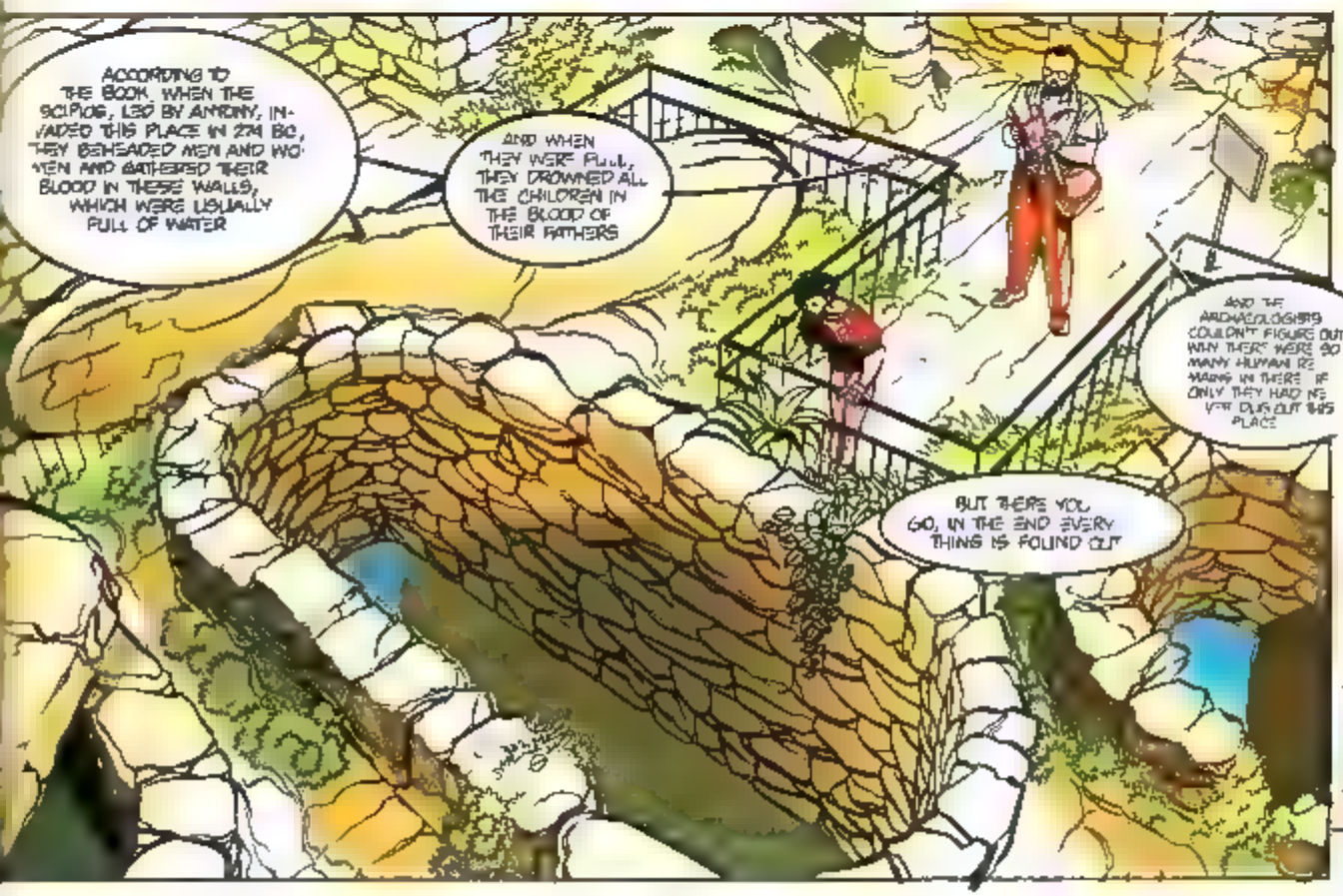

R U I N S
"MAYBE YOU HAVE A READY HEARD RUMOR ABOUT THE MYSTERY SURROUNDING THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL DIGS
IT'S SOMETHING THAT MADE THE ARCHAEOLOGISTS LOSE THEIR HEADS
MUSEO
AND I'LL TELL YOU ALL ABOUT IT IN A MOMENT LOOK AT THIS PIECE OF CERAMIC
EXCUSE ME FOR INTERRUPTING WHAT'S YOUR BADGE SAY OH, TONY DO YOU EVER GET LONELY?
THYMATERION
sagle IV
WHAT I MEAN IS, IN THE SUMMER WITH ALL THE TOURISTS, THERE'S A LOT OF WORK FOR A GUIDE
BUT NOW, AND WITH THAT HORRIBLE WIND BLOWING DAY AND NIGHT
BELIEVE ME KNOW A LOT ABOUT LONELINESS


OOOH MMMM
MMMH
WHAT? NO NO, DON'T STOP DON'T STOP
WHAT'S THE MATTER? OH ALL RIGHT
OKAY IT REALLY DOESN'T MATTER DON'T WORRY
LISTEN, DON'T YOU THINK IT'S HIGH TIME YOU TOLD ME? FROM WHAT I CAN TELL, SOMETHING IS REALLY BOTHERING YOU
WHY DON'T YOU TELL ME WHAT IT IS?
NO? YOU KNOW I THINK THAT WE'RE ALL A LITTLE BIT LIKE THOSE RUINS OUT THERE BY STUDYING THE TRACES THAT TIME LEAVES ON EACH ONE OF US, WE COULD ALL PLAY AT BEING ARCHAEOLOGISTS AND RECONSTRUCT ANYONE'S PAST
YOU LAUGH? OKAY I'M GOING TO TRY
I'LL DIG IN YOUR SKIN I'LL DRAG THAT SECRET OUT OF YOU.. EVERYTHING COMES OUT IN THE END DON'T YOU KNOW THAT?

ONCE AGAIN ONLY HEAR THE SOUND OF THE WIND GOD ONLY KNOWS HOW MUCH I'VE TRIED!
YOU'RE SO AFRAID TO TELL ME!
DO YOU WANT THIS SECRET OF YOURS TO TEAR US APART?
ANSWER ME AT LEAST! JUST SO I WON'T FEEL LIKE I'M TALKING TO A WALL!
LISTEN MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO WOULD BE CONTENT TO LOOK AT THE RUINS AND FANTASIZE MAYBE I SHOULD JUST LOVE YOU AND FORGET ABOUT YOUR SECRET
BUT I WANT A MAN! NOT A RUIN! I HAVE TO UNDERSTAND WHY YOU BEHAVE THIS WAY! I HAVE TO! I WANT TO KNOW YOU COMPLETELY SO, FOR THE LAST TIME
BEFORE I GO TELL ME PLEASE

THIS IS BEAUTIFUL. TOO BAD ABOUT ALL THE TOURISTS
YEAH. ACCORDING TO THE GUIDEBOOK, THIS PLACE IS VERY SPECIAL. I WONDER WHY.

DON'T THINK MUCH ABOUT IT. ONLY BECAUSE THIS PLACE IS SO OLD. SOMETIMES IT'S BETTER NOT TO KNOW TOO MUCH ABOUT SOMETHING.
TAKE US FOR INSTANCE. THERE ARE STILL MYSTERIES BETWEEN US. AND THAT MAKES IT MORE EXCITING. DON'T YOU THINK?
LET'S NOT SCREW AROUND WITH THE CHARM OF THIS PLACE. IT'S BEAUTIFUL. ENJOY THE BEAUTY.
YOU'RE SUCH A ROMANTIC.
AM THE WELL?"


ACCORDING TO THE BOOK, WHEN THE SCIPIOS, LED BY ANTONY, INVADED THIS PLACE IN 214 BC, THEY BEHEADED MEN AND WOMEN AND GATHERED THEIR BLOOD IN THESE WALLS, WHICH WERE USUALLY FULL OF WATER
AND WHEN THEY WERE FULL, THEY DROWNED ALL THE CHILDREN IN THE BLOOD OF THEIR FATHERS
AND THE ARCHAEOLOGISTS COULDN'T FIGURE OUT WHY THERE WERE SO MANY HUMAN REMAINS IN THERE. IF ONLY THEY HAD READ YOUR OLD BOOK
BUT THERE YOU GO, IN THE END EVERYTHING IS FOUND OUT

Out of this Wo

A B

C D

G H

I J

rld Fashions!!

E F

A Beautiful splash panel from the exciting Torres's series *Saxxon*. **Rocco Vargas** dances all over your heart in this seven-color T-shirt. **$12.95**
____ small ____ medium ____ large
____ ex-large

B From Torres's *Saxxon*, **THE FAN** is lost in a crowd and found on this ten-color tee. **$12.95**
____ small ____ medium ____ large
____ ex-large

C The **original Heavy Metal T-shirt** comes in red and black and is made of cotton-blend. The essential HM product. **$9.00**
____ small ____ medium
____ large ____ red ____ black

D Berni Wrightson's **Hanover Fists** and his never-do-well accomplice **Captain Sternn**. You've seen them in the magazine, you've seen them in the *Heavy Metal* movie, now see them coming and going. This durable four-color cotton **T-shirt** is a must for summer. **$9.95**
____ small ____ medium ____ large

E **Ranxerox T-shirt.** Made of 100% cotton with a reinforced neck. Deep armholes, extra body length and fullness. White with design in full color. **$12.95**
____ small ____ medium ____ large
____ ex-large

F **Heavy Metal's phosphorescent T-shirt.**
H These all-cotton tees are available in sleeveless or regular style black shirts. Wear it to

bed and you won't need a nite-lite to find your way to the bathroom. **$9.00**
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____ large ____ sleeveless
____ regular

G SHOOOM. Rocco Vargas's manservant, **Samson** and his little robot pal come alive on this new eight-color T-shirt. More coffee, Samson. more coffee! **$12.95**
____ small ____ medium ____ large
____ ex-large

You can now smack **Ranxerox's** pretty puss right on your lapel with this handsome **color pin. $5.00,** includes postage and handling. Don't leave home without it!
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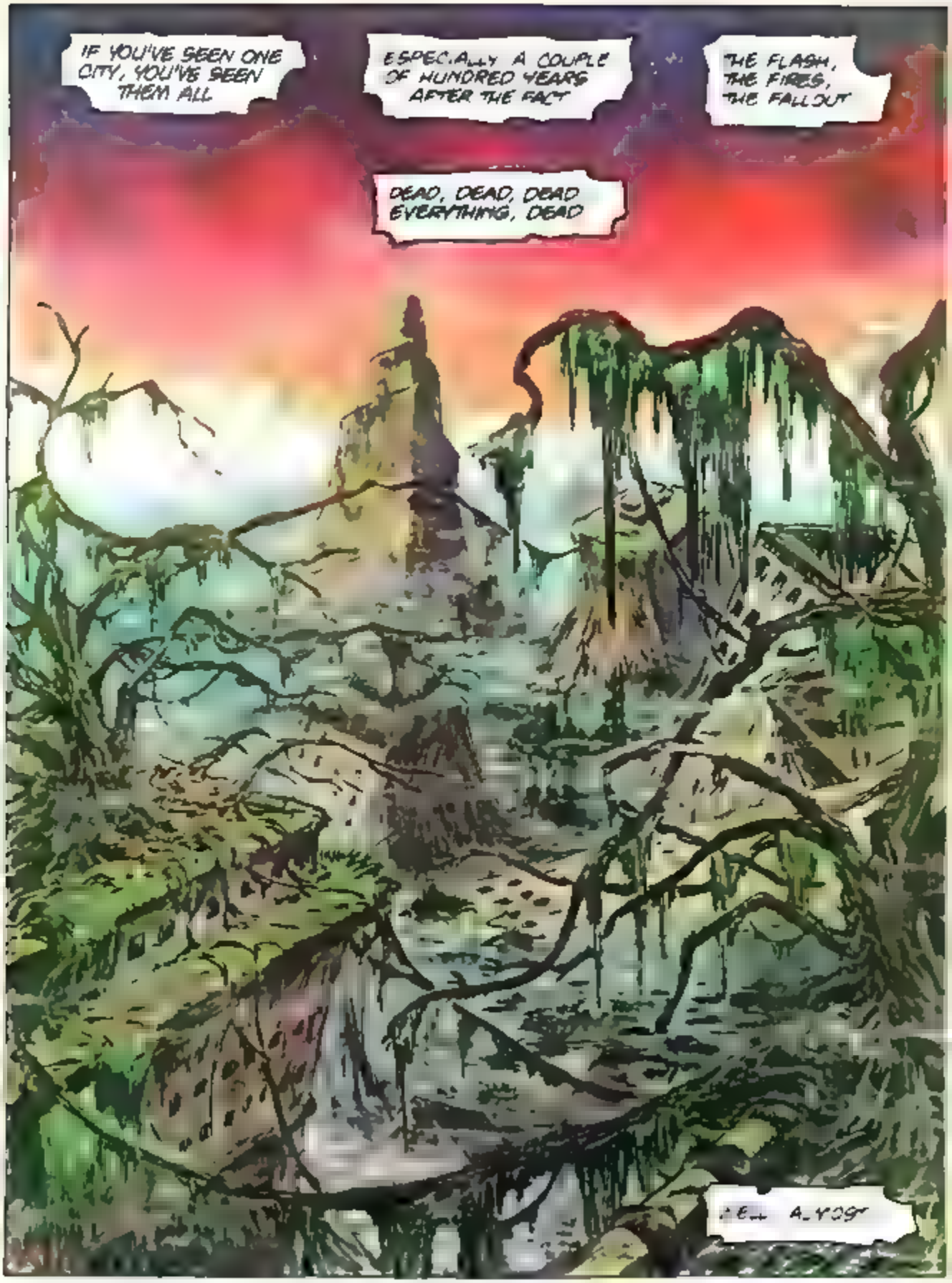
IF YOU'VE SEEN ONE CITY, YOU'VE SEEN THEM ALL
ESPECIALLY A COUPLE OF HUNDRED YEARS AFTER THE FACT
THE FLASH, THE FIRES, THE FALLOUT
DEAD, DEAD, DEAD EVERYTHING, DEAD
A. YOST

EARTH BURNED, AS BILLIONS WERE SACRIFICED TO THE POWER ATOMIC
BLACKEST MAGIC WAS NOW MANS' NEWEST TECHNOLOGY AND LORD
AND THE UNHOLIEST OF ITS VASSALS WERE ..
VOODOO QUEEN
A·N·D
DEMON BOY
BY MARK PACELLA

DOWN, DOWN DEEP BENEATH THE SWAMPY STILLNESS OF THE SURFACE
PAST SETTLED SUBWAY SHAFTS ...
PAST TUNNELS LONG TUMBLED.
TO HERE

PASSION PLEADS RELEASE.

BOY IS COY

EMOTION ERUPTS LIKE VOLCA NOES OF THE DAMNED
COLD EARTH GIVES UP ITS MAIDENHEAD

AND WHEN FOREPLAY IS FINISHED . .
WHO KNOWS ?
END

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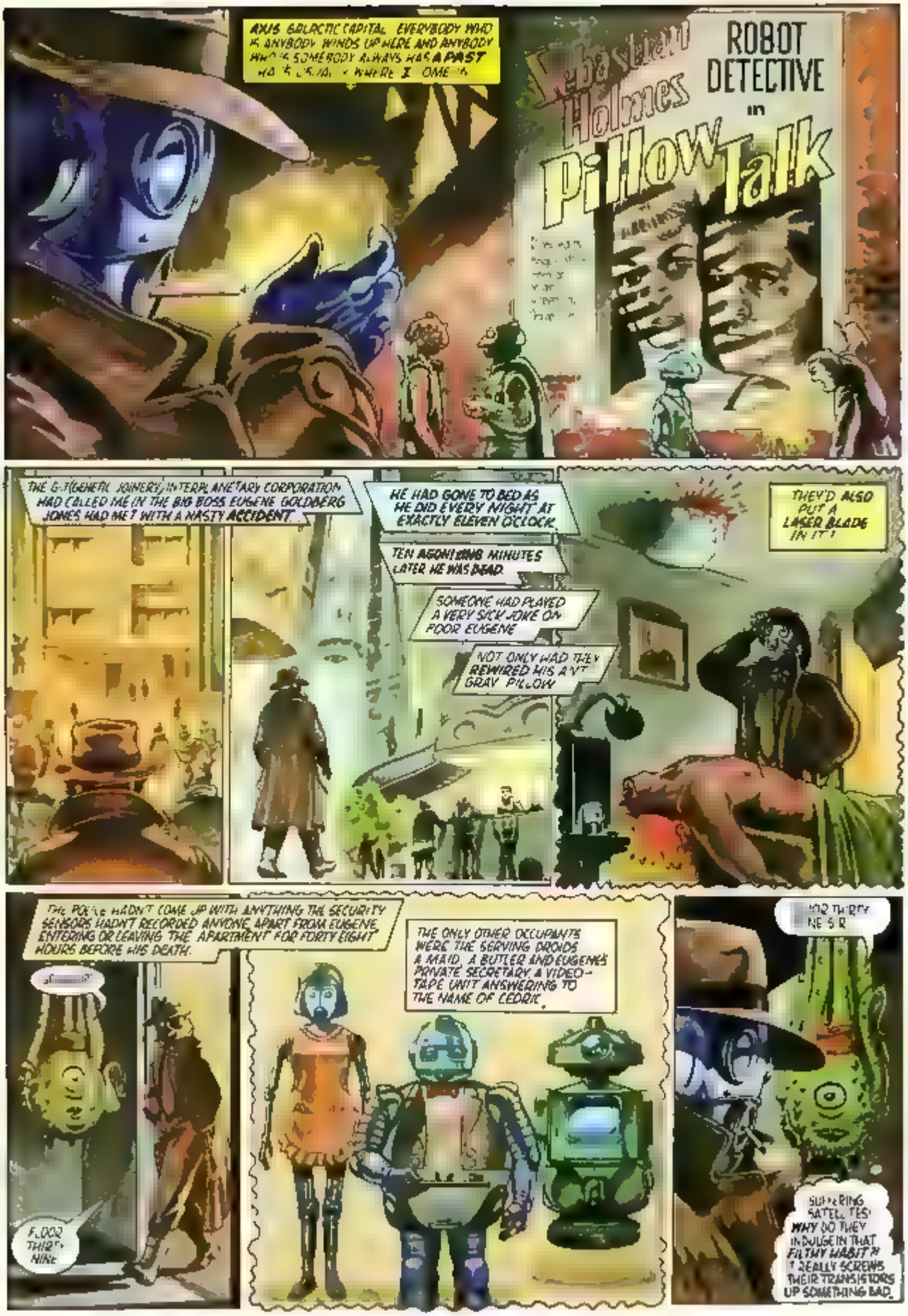
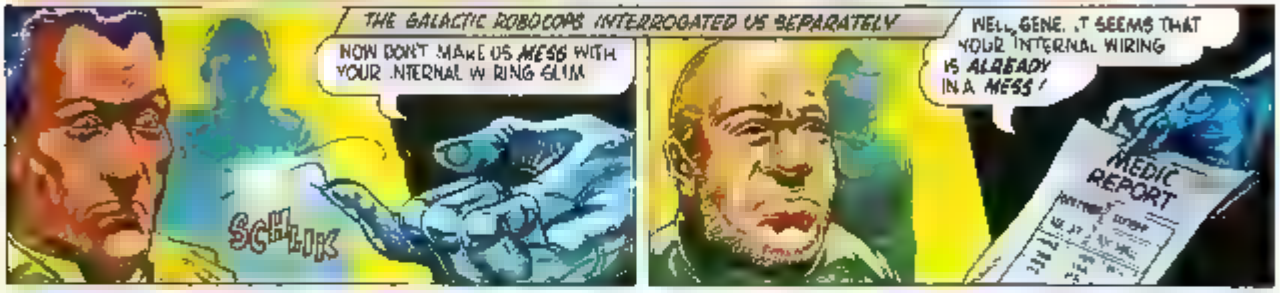

AXIS GALACTIC CAPITAL. EVERYBODY WHO IS ANYBODY WINDS UP HERE AND ANYBODY WHO'S SOMEBODY ALWAYS HAS A PAST
Sebastian Holmes
ROBOT DETECTIVE
in
Pillow Talk
THE GENETIC JOINERY INTERPLANETARY CORPORATION HAD CALLED ME IN THE BIG BOSS EUGENE GOLDBERG JONES HAD MET WITH A NASTY ACCIDENT.
HE HAD GONE TO BED AS HE DID EVERY NIGHT AT EXACTLY ELEVEN O'CLOCK.
TEN AGONIZING MINUTES LATER HE WAS DEAD.
SOMEONE HAD PLAYED A VERY SICK JOKE ON POOR EUGENE
NOT ONLY HAD THEY REWIRED HIS ANTI GRAV PILLOW
THEY'D ALSO PUT A LASER BLADE IN IT!
THE POLICE HADN'T COME UP WITH ANYTHING THE SECURITY SENSORS HADN'T RECORDED ANYONE APART FROM EUGENE ENTERING OR LEAVING THE APARTMENT FOR FORTY EIGHT HOURS BEFORE HIS DEATH.
FLOOR THIRTY NINE
THE ONLY OTHER OCCUPANTS WERE THE SERVING DROIDS A MAID, A BUTLER AND EUGENE'S PRIVATE SECRETARY A VIDEO-TAPE UNIT ANSWERING TO THE NAME OF CEDRIC.
FLOOR THIRTY NINE S R
SUFFERING SATELLITES! WHY DO THEY INDULGE IN THAT FILTHY HABIT? I REALLY SCREENS THEIR TRANSISTORS UP SOMETHING BAD.

IT WASN'T EXACTLY THE EASIEST CASE I'D HAD.
I'D TAKEN THE PILLOW APART LOOKING FOR CLUES. DIDN'T FIND A THING. BUT THEN ELECTRONICS NEVER WERE MY STRONGPOINT
TOOK ME HOURS TO PUT THE DAMN THING BACK TOGETHER
SOMEONE OBVIOUSLY HAD HAD IT IN FOR GOLDBERG.
SEBASTIAN HOLMES
BUT WHO?
DROIDS CAN'T HARM HUMES
I'D HAD A HUNCH. A SMALL HUNCH. BUT A HUNCH ALL THE SAME
THIS WAY PLEASE MR HOLMES.
GOOD LOOKIN DAME NICE SET OF DOIDES
WHY HAVE YOU HAD US ACTIVATED MR HOLMES? YOU KNOW THAT WE WERE ALL CLOSED DOWN AT TEN FORTY-FIVE THAT NIGHT
AND THAT A DROID CANNOT HARM A HUME

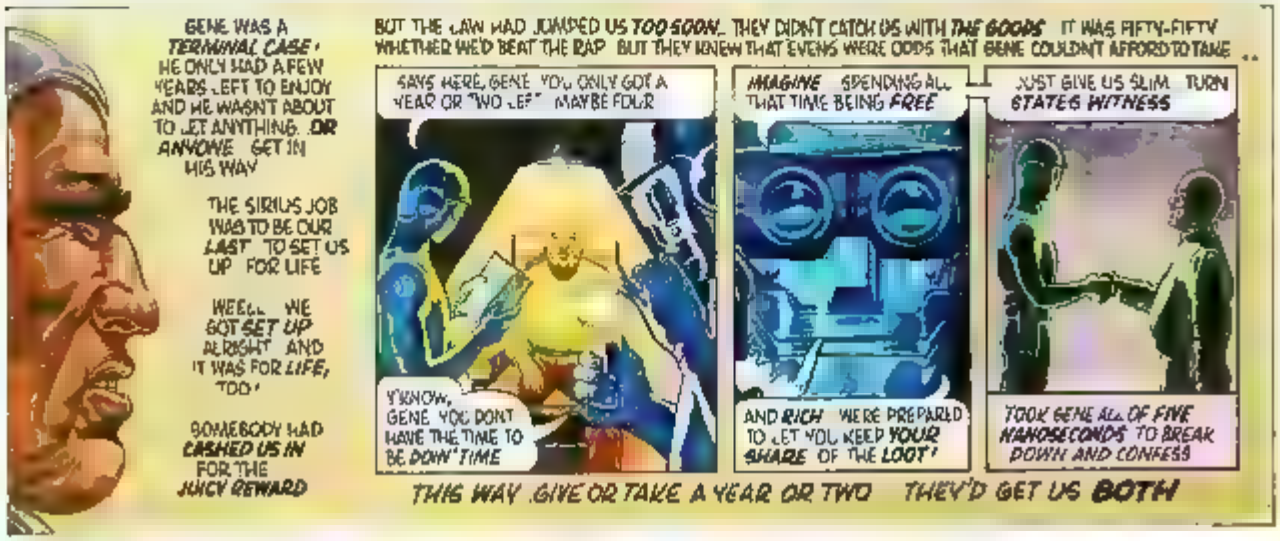
I PLAYED IT COOL
I THINK THAT ONE OF YOU..
TAP TAP
TAC
SSSSS
KNOWS WHY I AM HERE
THE BUTLER DID IT!
BUT, SIR..
HOW COULD I HAVE DONE SUCH A THING?!
WHEN I QUESTIONED YOU ALL YESTERDAY, I NOTICED A CERTAIN SUBSTANCE ON YOUR FINGERS..
I AM SURE THAT YOU KNOW WHAT I AM TALKING ABOUT
JAM! FROOGBERRY JAM!
CAN YOU FIGURE OUT WHAT THIS IS, SMART ASS?!
MAKE A MOVE AND SHE GETS IT!
A SONIC SCREWDRIVER! ONE BURST AND SHE'S HAD HER MICROCHIPS!

DON'T EVEN THINK ABOUT DOING ANYTHING STUPID!
I WASN'T.
CAN TAKE THIS STUPID THING OFF NOW!
A HUME !!
WHIRR
JIM ZANUS! IF MY MEMORY BANKS SERVE ME CORRECTLY YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE DEAD!
SLIM JIM ZANUS IF YOU DON'T MIND. AN I AIN'T DEAD GUMSHOE, I'M DEAD SMART! THE WHOLE GALAXY THINKS I WENT DOWN WITH THAT PRISON FREIGHTER! IT WAS NO ACCIDENT! GENE WAS AFTER ME! FOR YEARS EUGENE GOLDBERG-JONES AN ME WERE THE GALAXY'S HOTTEST GENETIC CONMEN 'TIL THE SIRIUS JOB
TELL ME SLIM, I'VE ALWAYS WONDERED IF YOU'RE SO SMART WHY DO THEY CALL YOU ZANUS THE AN...
SHUT IT!
DON'T CALL ME THAT NAME! I HATE IT! IT'S DISGUSTIN.'
LIKE A LOT OF SMALL PEOPLE WHO WANT TO BE BIG, SLIM HAD ABSOLUTELY NO SENSE OF HUMOUR.
ANY FOOL CAN MAKE A RULE AND ANY FOOL WILL OBEY IT! THAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ROBOTS AND HUMES. ROBOTS AIN'T TOO SMART!
YOU'RE ON FILE, SLIM, BUT EUGENE IS CLEAN! THAT WAS THE FIRST THING I CHECKED AT GAL HQ. DO YOU MEAN SOMEONE IN AUTHORITY ISN'T PLAYING BY THE RULES!
SO, SLIM, YOU WERE SMART ENOUGH TO GET YOURSELF BUSTED ON THE SIRIUS JOB! YOU WERE SENT DOWN TO HYKE, THE PENAL PLANET, FOR TEN YEARS!
BUT WHAT HAPPENED TO GENE? IF HE WAS THERE WHY DON'T THE RECORDS SHOW IT?

TEN LONG YEARS I HAD TO DO
TEN YEARS AND TWO DAYS OF SITTING IN THE DUST WITH FLATULENT FERRITES AND DRIBBLING DRYADS
THE DAY WE WERE BUSTED WAS THE LAST TIME I SAW GENE UNTIL THREE WEEKS AGO WHEN I BECAME HIS ROBO-BUTLER
LATER THROUGH THE NETWORK I LEARNED WHAT HAD HAPPENED BEHIND MY BACK!


THE GALACTIC ROBOCOPS INTERROGATED US SEPARATELY
NOW DON'T MAKE US MESS WITH YOUR INTERNAL WIRING SLIM
SCHLIK
WELL, GENE, IT SEEMS THAT YOUR INTERNAL WIRING IS ALREADY IN A MESS!
MEDIC REPORT

GENE HAD BEEN HOLDIN OUT ON ME THE BALS KNEW MORE ABOUT HIM THAN ME HIS OWN PARTNER!
A FEW YEARS BACK WHILE TRYING TO PURIFY A GENETICALLY MUTATED KILLER VIRUS FOR THE MAFIOSA, GENE MADE A CLUMSY ERROR..
IT WAS A PARTICULARLY VIRULENT STRAIN HE TRIPPED ON A FIRE EXTINGUISHER...ALWAYS WAS AN UNTIDY SOD!
TRIP
ARRGH!


GENE WAS A TERMINAL CASE. HE ONLY HAD A FEW YEARS LEFT TO ENJOY AND HE WASN'T ABOUT TO LET ANYTHING OR ANYONE GET IN HIS WAY
THE SIRIUS JOB WAS TO BE OUR LAST TO SET US UP FOR LIFE
WELL WE GOT SET UP ALRIGHT AND IT WAS FOR LIFE, TOO!
SOMEBODY HAD CASHED US IN FOR THE JUICY REWARD
BUT THE LAW HAD JUMPED US TOO SOON. THEY DIDN'T CATCH US WITH THE GOODS IT WAS FIFTY-FIFTY WHETHER WE'D BEAT THE RAP BUT THEY KNEW THAT EVENS WERE ODDS THAT GENE COULDN'T AFFORD TO TAKE
SAYS HERE, GENE YOU ONLY GOT A YEAR OR TWO LEFT MAYBE FOUR
Y'KNOW, GENE YOU DON'T HAVE THE TIME TO BE DOIN' TIME
IMAGINE SPENDING ALL THAT TIME BEING FREE
AND RICH WE'RE PREPARED TO LET YOU KEEP YOUR SHARE OF THE LOOT!
JUST GIVE US SLIM TURN STATES WITNESS
TOOK GENE ALL OF FIVE NANOSECONDS TO BREAK DOWN AND CONFESS
THIS WAY, GIVE OR TAKE A YEAR OR TWO THEY'D GET US BOTH

SO GENE WAS SET UP ?
AND I WAS SENT DOWN!
AT FIRST ALL I COULD THINK ABOUT WAS THOSE TEN LONG YEARS BUT TWO THINGS SAVED MY SANITY THE FIRST WAS BEING MADE A HOSPITAL TRUSTEE IN THE PHARMACOLOGY LABORATORY.
HEY! THAT LOOKS LIKE WHITE CHARLIE DUST!
SHUT IT, SLIM. I KNOW WHAT IT IS! YOU'RE NOT HERE JUST FOR FUN!
IT SEEMED THAT, EVEN ON YSPAKE MY REPUTATION HAD PRECEDED ME THE GOVERNOR WANTED THE QUALITY OF HIS COSMIC SMACK UPGRADED IT WAS THE ONLY THING THAT KEPT HIM THE WARDERS AND THE PRISONERS ON THE RAILS
SO WHAT DO I GET OUT OF THIS ?
NOW GET PEACE AND QUIET! WITHOUT THIS STUFF THE WHOLE PLACE WOULD ERUPT! YOU ALSO GET OFF THE CHAIN GANG EVERY OTHER DAY SO DON'T ROCK THE BOAT
THE SECOND BIT OF LUCK WAS MEETING JP WITH AN OLD PAL OF GENE'S FROM THE KILLER VIRUS CAPER
IN RETURN FOR NIGHTS SPENT ON CLOUD NINE, HE HELPED ME TO CONSTRUCT A COMPLETE MOLECULAR REPLICA OF GENE'S VIRUS TOOK ME THREE YEARS BUT I EVENTUALLY MADE AN ANTIDOTE!
THIS IS GOOD STUFF! HOW COME YOU DON'T NEED IT?
SOMETHIN ELSE KEEPS ME GOIN'
THROUGH THE NETWORK I GOT THE FORMULA TO GENE JUST IN TIME HE WAS ON HIS DEATHBED HE REACTED AS I EXPECTED...
CHECKS OUT OK ON THE COMPUTER SO. HERE'S TO YOU, SLIM.
NOW I'LL JUST HAVE TO GET YOU BEFORE YOU GET ME!
GENE NOW HAD SOMETHING TO LIVE FOR. HIS LIFE!
IN THE REMAINING SEVEN YEARS WE USED THE NETWORK IN MANY ATTEMPTS ON MY LIFE
BUT NEVER ONCE DID I DOUBT MY PLAN ..
BECAUSE I KNEW GENE WAS SWEATING.
HE MADE HIS LAST DESPERATE EFFORT ON THE DAY THAT I LEFT PRISON.

BUT, SLIM GENE WAS SUFFERING A SLOW HORRIBLE DEATH WHY SAVE HIM?!
A SLOW HORRIBLE DEATH! ASHINO GOOD!
I WASN'T THERE
OF COURSE
THROUGH THE NETWORK I WAS FOREWARNED WHEN GENE'S BOMB BLEW UP THE PRISON SHIP, I WAS WELL ON MY WAY TO A SECRET RENDEZVOUS
YOU KNEW THAT ALL THOSE PEOPLE WERE GOING TO DIE AND YOU JUST LET IT HAPPEN
IT SUITED MY PLANS
BUT MY NAME WAS ON THE LIST OF THOSE KILLED.
THEY'RE DEAD! BUT LIKE I SAID GUMSHOE. I'M DEAD SMART!
ONCE I WAS BACK IN TOWN MY NETWORK CONTACTS GOT ME INTO THE ROBO-PLANT
YOU'RE NOT AS SLIM AS YOU USED TO BE SLIM
THEN AT LAST I WAS RENDEZVOUS CHEZ GENE'S
OK COME IN
THE MORE HE GLOATED OVER MY DEATH THE MORE I GLOATED OVER HIS
MORE CHAMPAGNE TIN MAN HA HA HA
PRISON SHIP ROBOTRON

HE WAS ENGROSSED IN HIS SAD LIFE STORY. I HAD TO MAKE A MOVE.
BUT SLIM MUST HAVE SENSED THE SITUATION, HE SUDDENLY MADE HIS MOVE FIRST...
SO NOW YOU GOT THE WHOLE STORY, MAKE SURE THE MEDIA KNOW HOW SMART I WAS.
YOU ROBOTS ARE TOO SLOW. IN A MOMENT I'LL BE FREE. FOREVER
LIKE I SAID, I'M SMART...
DEAD..
KRASH
CLIC CLIC
S...
MMMAARRRRT
IT TOOK ME HOURS TO PUT THE THING BACK TOGETHER..
AND THE DAMN PILLOW STILL DIDN'T WORK...
ELECTRONICS NEVER WERE MY STRONGPOINT
I GUESS THAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ROBOTS AND HUMES...
ROBOTS AREN'T TOO SMART.

HEAVY METAL

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